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For every one hundred pounds of such debentures a new debenture will be issued for the same amount, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for seven years, from April 15, 1885, to April 15, 1892, when it will be converted into £107 New Zealand Four per Cent. Consolidated Stock inscribed at the Bank of England, which will rank pari passu with the Four per Cent. Consolidated Stock already created and issued, and redeemable at par on the 1st November, 1929.

Applications for conversion will be received up to April 30 next inclusive.

The interest upon the new debentures will be payable by coupons in the same manner as upon the Consol debentures—viz., January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, at the Bank of England, the first coupon being for the dividend due July 15 next.

Consol debentures, from which the coupon due April 15 next must be detached, may be deposited at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, for exchange on or after Wednesday, the 11th inst. They must bear all coupons subsequent to that due April 15 next, and must be left three clear days for examination. Receipts will be given for the debentures deposited, and the new debentures will be issued in exchange as soon after as possible.

The usual annual drawing for redemption of the Consols will take place on Tuesday, 31st March next; debentures deposited before that date will not be affected by the drawing. Holders of Consol Debentures drawn for redemption, in respect of which no application for conversion has been made, will be allowed to receive, in exchange for such drawn debentures, a new debenture as above, upon payment of the sum of £4 per cent., provided application be made before the 15th April next.

By the Act 40 and 41 Vict., ch. 59, the revenues of the colony of New Zealand alone will be liable in respect of the stock and the dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, will not be directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the stock or of the dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.

Bank of England, 6th March, 1885.

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Reserve	£1,170,000	0 0
Premium Reserve	369,248	9 11
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	52,986	15 3
	£1,592,235	5 2

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

894 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring	£314,819	0 0
The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of	29,572	1 5
The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 296 in number, arising under 397 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-assurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to.. ..	346,122	4 4
The income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to..	471,407	15 7
In the Annuity Branch 83 bonds were granted, securing annuities to the amount of £5,390 12s. 7d. yearly, for which was received by single payment the sum of ..	59,520	11 6
The Life Fund, now amounts to	3,340,918	11 2
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CAUTION.—Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood stated that Dr. J. Collis Browne was, undoubtedly, the Inventor of Chlorodyne; that the story of the Defendant, Freeman, was deliberately untrue, which, he regretted to say, had been sworn to."—See "Times," 13th July, 1864.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The defeat of the French in Tong-king has led, as was anticipated, to the fall of the Ferry Ministry. The greatest excitement prevailed in Paris on Monday, and two or three thousand persons had collected outside the Chamber before two o'clock. Inside the Palais Bourbon the lobbies were noisy and restless, while in the Chamber itself the agitation was still greater. At the Cabinet Council on Sunday night the Government resolved to present to the Chamber a credit demand for two hundred millions of francs, and it was announced in Monday's Governmental papers that the Ministry would require an unqualified vote of confidence in their Eastern policy. There was, in consequence, a crowded attendance in the Chamber, and a vast multitude assembled outside, from whom supporters of the Government as they passed had to endure various demonstrations of anger. The sitting did not commence until three o'clock, M. Jules Ferry being detained by the opening of the Suez Canal Conference. At the opening of the sitting M. Jules Ferry read a written statement, in which, after lamenting the non-fulfilment of the hopes justified by Saturday's news, pointed out that the despatches received on Sunday night were more reassuring. General Négrier was in a fair way of recovery, and the French army was in possession of highly important reinforcements. Measures called for by the exigencies of the moment had been already taken; but something more was necessary. The check sustained at Lang-son must be retrieved not merely to ensure the safety of the French establishments in Indo-China, but also to vindicate French honour, now compromised before the entire world.

M. Ferry then laid on the table a Bill opening supplementary credits of £8,000,000 for the Ministers of War and Marine, requesting that it might be referred to the Bureaux. M. Clémenceau said that at that moment there would be no debate between the Cabinet and a Republican Deputy:—

"We do not know you any longer; we do not wish to know you any more. (Cheers.) On what you have said or done up to this time I wish to-day to throw the veil of oblivion. It is not Ministers I have before me, but accused persons—persons accused of high treason, on whom, if there be any principle of justice in France, the hand of the law will descend before long."

Credits must be granted and succour sent, but there must first be a Ministry which knew how to speak the truth. He proposed a resolution that—

The Chamber resolved to vote all the credits necessary for the relief of French soldiers in the East, and, condemning the policy of the Government, passed to the order of the day.

M. Raoul Duval (Bonapartist) said that his party also refused to discuss the question with M. Ferry. M. Ribot proposed another resolution of censure. M. Ferry then requested that his motion for further credits should have the priority, but this was rejected by 308 to 161. M. Ferry declared that the Cabinet would resign immediately, and left the House. The motions of censure were then withdrawn. The House also by 304 to 161 refused to discuss motions of impeachment presented by MM. Delafosse (Bonapartist) and Laisant (Radical). The Chamber then passed a vote of sympathy with the army, and ordered the immediate election of a committee on the Credits Bill.

The Ferry Cabinet has existed for twenty-five months, longer than any other of the eighteen Ministries since the fall of the Empire.

After conferring at some length with the Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, M. Grévy on Monday night summoned M. de Freycinet to the Elysée, and requested him to undertake the task of forming a new Ministry.

M. Ferry received on Wednesday morning a despatch, bearing a date subsequent to that of the French defeat, apprising him that China had accepted peace proposals which had been made by him, and that there were no further difficulties to settle beyond the date of the evacuation by the Chinese troops of the positions they occupy.

Prince Orloff died on Sunday morning, after a long illness, at his country retreat Fontainebleau. He was the son of the Prince of Orloff who signed the Paris treaty of peace at the Palais d'Orsay after the Crimean war. He was appointed Ambassador to Paris in 1873, and remained in that position until three years ago. Prince Orloff was much liked. His very handsome person was marred by a wound received at Sebastopol, and he wore a large black patch covering a great part of the cheek.

ITALY.—The *Times* correspondent, writing from Rome on the 26th ult. (previous to the death of Cardinal Schwartzenberg) says:—"The *Gerarchia Cattolica* for 1885 numbers this year, with its index, no fewer than 667 pages, devoted, as usual, to what is little more than classified enumeration of the names and qualifications of the personages of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy and the Pontifical Household, from the Pope, whose titles are 'Vicar of Jesus Christ,' 'Successor of the Prince of the Apostles,' 'Sovereign Pontiff of the Universal Church,' 'Patriarch of the West,' 'Primate of Italy,' 'Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Province of Rome,' and 'Temporal Sovereign of the Roman Church,' down to the Custodes of the Vatican museums, and the Bussolanti, or chair-bearers, and their supernumeraries. From its contents I gather that the Sacred College is now composed of one Cardinal (Schwarzenberg) created by Gregory XVI., 29 Cardinals created by Pius IX., and 29 by Leo XIII.—in all, 59, leaving 11 hats vacant. The Cardinals of foreign birth number 28—namely, six Frenchmen, one Corsican, four Spaniards, two Portuguese, three Englishmen, one American, two Germans, one German Pole, one Russian Pole, four Austrians, two Hungarians, and one Croat. Only 20, however, of these are what are called national Cardinals, owing allegiance to their respective Sovereigns or Governments; the other eight—namely, two Frenchmen, one Englishman (Howard), a Russian Pole, two Germans, the Corsican, and one Austrian, being Cardinals of the Curia, resident in Rome, and holding no sees or benefices in their own countries. Two are above 80 years of age, 26 above 70, 16 above 60, 14 above 50, and one only below that age—namely, Cardinal Neto, Patriarch of Lisbon, who is only 44. The Dean of the College in point of age is Cardinal Newman, aged 85, and in point of seniority of creation Cardinal Prince Schwarzenberg, who has worn the purple for 43 years; but the Dean by right is Cardinal Sacconi, senior of the six Cardinal Bishops of Suburbican sees. The Patriarchs living, of both rites, who are not at the same time Cardinals, number eight; the Archbishops and Bishops, not being Cardinals, holding residential sees of the Latin rite, 727; and of the Oriental rite, 51. The Archbishops and Bishops *in partibus infidelium* are 322 in all; the Archbishops and Bishops no longer holding sees, 22; and the prelates *nullius diœceseos*—exclusive of two who are Cardinals and six who are Bishops—six; forming a total of 1,195 dignitaries, exclusive of the infinite number of Monsignori of the Roman Prelature and Curia. Of the 322 Archbishops and Bishops *in partibus*, seven are Apostolic Delegates, 118 Apostolic Vicars, and 35 Apostolic Prefects. The sees vacant include two patriarchates, 66 archbishoprics and bishoprics of the Latin and 20 of the Oriental rite, three sees *nullius diœceseos*, and five Apostolic Vicariates. Leo XIII. has, since the beginning of his Pontificate, founded five archiepiscopal and 23 episcopal sees, one Apostolic Delegation (that of India), 18 Apostolic Vicariates, and seven Apostolic Prefectures. Besides these, he has raised two sees from episcopal to archiepiscopal dignity, and converted two Apostolic Prefectures into Apostolic Vicariates. The Cardinals created by the present Pope have numbered 35, of whom six have died; and the total number of deaths in the Sacred College since he ascended the Chair of Peter has been 39."

A very important discovery has been made in connection with the topography of the Roman Forum. In dressing and carrying back as far as possible the escarpment of the accumulation on the unexcavated portion of the north-east side, on which stands, between the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina and the Church of St. Adriano, that row of modern buildings which is ultimately to be removed for the completion of the excavations, a part of the pavement of the ancient street connecting the Forum with the Suburra has been uncovered. It lies at a level of some 18 inches below the flagged area of the Forum, which, it must be remembered, is that of the seventh century at the earliest. The street extends along the south-east side of that part of the Curia which is now the church of St. Adriano. The pavement is in a fine state of preservation, and on one side of the street stands a large pedestal, probably of a statue dedicated, as the inscription shows, to the Emperor Constantinus II. by Memmius Vitrasius Orfitus, who was was Præfectus Urbis from 355 to 359. The point at which the end of this street touches the area of the Forum is still covered with *débris* and an extraordinary quantity of masses of marble, such as pedestals of columns, pieces of cornice, and other fragments, found lying heaped upon one another beneath the accumulation removed on the carrying back of the escarpment some 10 or 12 feet. Among these remains is a large portion of the shaft of a fluted column, cut from a beautiful coloured marble.

The Pope wrote on the 1st of February to the Emperor of China begging him to grant his special protection to the Christians of his dominions, whose situation has, by the present state of war, become most difficult.

In a secret Consistory yesterday week, the Pope named Cardinal Oreglia di Santo Stefano Camerlengo, of the Holy Roman Church, in the place of the late Cardinal di Pietro; and provided for thirty-four vacant residential sees and fourteen *in partibus infidelium*.

Mr. Hugh Andrew Johnstone Munro, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, well known as the editor of *Lucretius*, *Horace*, and other classics, died in Rome on Monday morning of fever, after about a fortnight's illness.

GERMANY. — Prince Bismarck completed his seventieth year on Wednesday. "Nothing," the Berlin correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says, "could more conclusively testify to his immense popularity than the heartiness with which all classes throughout the empire are joining in the celebration of the Chancellor's birthday. Berlin is crowded with deputations from all parts of Germany, and rich presents are pouring in from all sides. Among these gifts is a prince's golden coronet from the Emperor, and a duplicate picture of 'The Proclamation at Versailles,' by Anton von Werner, specially painted by that artist for the occasion." On Tuesday afternoon the national festival opened with a procession of Kriegervereine, or clubs of former soldiers, who marched with banners and music down the Linden and Wilhelmstrasse past the Chancellor's Palace, in view of enormous crowds which had turned out to see them. Later on, at seven, a magnificent torchlight procession, headed by a deputation of university students, and composed of municipal clubs and guilds, all in costume with a colossal triumphal car, formed near the Royal palace, and proceeded by the same route past Prince von Bismarck's residence to the further end of the city. All traffic was stopped, and the streets and windows overlooking the route were thronged, chairs being let at very high prices.

The Emperor and all the Royal Princes, including the Crown Prince, visited Prince Bismarck at half-past ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, and in earnest terms offered their congratulations to the Imperial Chancellor, to whom they presented a copy of the celebrated painting, "The Emperor's Coronation at Versailles." The Emperor conferred upon Count Herbert Bismarck the Order of the Red Eagle of the Second Class.

RUSSIA.—The *Daily Telegraph* correspondent at Allahabad says:—

"Advices just received here from a special correspondent with the Afghan Frontier Commission fully confirm the reports that have been current for some days past of another advance of the Russian troops in the direction of Penjdeh. The correspondent states positively that General Komaroff and Colonel Alikhanoff, with a force, the strength of which is not specified, have arrived at Urush Toshan, which is only eighteen miles north of Penjdeh. It is not known whether they had continued their advance, but they were at Urush Toshan on the 22nd inst.

The *Times* learns that the concentration of a large force, said to be 50,000 men, has been ordered at Baku, on the Caspian. Very little is allowed to be known in St. Petersburg concerning whatever military preparations are going on. General Komaroff's *Svat* reports that one brigade of chasseurs has received marching orders, and the *Invalide Russe* states that the third Turkestan line battalion has been pushed forward to Merv to reinforce the Transcaspian forces, but these, like the above statement of the *Times*, remain as yet unconfirmed. A St. Petersburg correspondent writes to Berlin that the Shah, the heir-apparent, and their advisers are said to be convinced that Persia's welfare depends on a close approach to Russia.

AMERICA.—Advices received in New York state that the Central American rebels have again taken possession of Panama, after some fighting. Aspinwall has been burnt by them. Indignation is expressed at the inactivity displayed by the foreign war vessels.

DENMARK.—The Danish Rigsdag was on Wednesday closed by Royal message. In the Folkething the leader of the Left read a proclamation addressed by the party to the "Danish people" in reference to the present crisis. When the Royal message was about to be read the whole of the Left quitted the House. The members of the Left in the Landsthing also absented themselves during the reading of the Royal message. The King has issued a decree provisionally authorising the expenditure by the Government of such sums as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the public services.

AUSTRIA.—Cardinal Frederick John Joseph Celestin, Prince Schwarzenberg, Archbishop of Prague, and Primate of Bohemia, died at Vienna on the 27th ult. He was born on the 6th of April, 1809, and at first studied for the legal profession, but of his own choice devoted himself to the Church, where his family connections greatly advanced his career. At 27 he was already Archbishop of Salzburg; six years later he was elevated to the purple, and in 1850 was appointed Archbishop of Prague. At the last Œcumenical Council he made himself conspicuous by his opposition to the dogma of infallibility, but made his surrender to the dogma when it had been voted, and in 1871 he invited Pius IX. to take up his abode in Prague if his Holiness should be compelled to leave Rome. After the funeral service on Monday his remains were taken to Prague for burial in the Cathedral.

BULGARIA.—The Orthodox clergy have closed their churches, and refused not only to celebrate Divine service, but to conduct baptismal and funeral services, or any other clerical offices.

CHINA.—The Hong Kong correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs:—The French were compelled to abandon Lang-son on account of the determined attacks of the Chinese on their line of communications. In the engagements around Lang-son they were defeated, and are now retiring on Chu. The position of the French troops is exceedingly precarious. General Négrier's wound is pronounced to be dangerous. The recapture of Lang-son will be difficult under any circumstances, and could not be undertaken with any chance of success during the present year."

We learn from Hanoi that the situation continues grave. Large forces of Chinese, supposed to be under European leadership, are endeavouring to cut the French line of retreat. It is added that the Court of Hué is not unconnected with the recent events in Tonquin. General Négrier has arrived at Hué. His condition is satisfactory. It was officially announced on Wednesday that Brigadier-Generals Jamais and Munier will be despatched to Tonquin.

TURKEY.—A remarkable scene was witnessed in Constantinople on Monday. An immense crowd of infuriated women surrounded the Ministry of Finance, and, despite the efforts of the guards to resist their entry, forced their way into the building. An advanced party burst yelling and gesticulating into the office of the Minister, and, to his great alarm, demanded with many threats the arrears of their husbands' pay. In the meanwhile the crowd of infuriated wives poured into the building, and the situation of the Minister became every moment more critical. A large body of police were summoned, and soon afterwards made an attempt to clear the premises; but their efforts were unavailing, and they were at last forced to retire, leaving the Amazons in in possession of the field. The Minister managed amid the confusion to make his escape by a back window, after having made plausible promises to the enraged women.

EGYPT.—The hearing of the appeal lodged by the Government in the Caisse action has been indefinitely postponed. The actual revenue for the financial year ending March 31st amounts to £8,896,000. The monthly statement of the receipts of the Caisse shows that £1,483,790 have been encashed on account of the Unified Debt, and £480,000 for the Railway Preference Loan.

INDIA.—According to the Calcutta correspondent of the *Daily News*, many of the natives are desirous of becoming volunteers. Twenty of the leading gentlemen of Patna have petitioned the Indian Government to sanction the formation of a native volunteer corps. Four university graduates have been admitted into the Madras Artillery Volunteers. This circumstance has caused a considerable sensation. The other members threaten to resign. A resolution passed by Lord Lytton's Government permits the natives to join existing corps, but forbids the formation of separate corps.

The Viceroy arrived in Rawul Pindi yesterday week, and was received by the Punjaub chiefs, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjaub, Sir D. Stewart, Commander-in-Chief; Sir F. Roberts, Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army; General Hardinge, Commander-in-Chief of Bombay, and other high officials. On Saturday last the Viceroy received and returned the visits of various native chiefs, and in the evening held a grand levée.

The Ameer was met on Friday week at Lundi Kotul by the Commissioner of Peshawur, at which place he arrived on Monday. His escort consists of twelve Cabul chiefs, thirty-three minor sirdars, and 771 soldiers. He arrived at Rawul Pindi on Tuesday morning, and was received at the station by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjaub, and at his residence by the Viceroy. There was an imposing military procession to escort him, but the effect of the pageant was marred by rain.

SOUTH AFRICA.—A correspondent of the *Times* writes from Bechuanaland in February:—"Yesterday afternoon, so soon as our midday meal was over, I started off with a friend to explore the kraal. It was a two-mile walk, and all the heat of the sun centred on the earth at this hour. Arriving at the outskirts we determined first to go and pay Mankoroane, the Chief, or King of the tribe, a visit, whose place we found without difficulty—a common large hut, made of mud plastered together with brushwood and reeds, and coarsely thatched on the roof. The eaves projected over the walls about 3ft., so that a verandah was formed round the hut. The entrance was through a yard which surrounded the hut, with a wall of brushwood 7ft. high. There was only one doorway, into which we entered on a smooth yard of red clay. Here, with their backs to the wall, sat some men, probably the King's bodyguard. They were all more or less dressed, having trousers patched with every conceivable colour and material, some with hats, others old Government helmets. We walked into the hut, which was divided in two by a low wall. The inside was lined with gray clay and quaint figures and devices were made on it. Opposite the door and close to the inside wall lay a man on a couch with a folded-up shawl under his head. He had on a red flannel shirt, blue coat, very old cord trousers, and boots with cloth tops, but no socks. He was a King. At his head sat another person, the Queen, sitting like a tailor, naked to her waist. She had a quantity of beads round her neck, of different colours, from which hung charms and such useful articles as keys. The King was sound asleep, but the Queen and attendants were wide awake. The smell and bad air were intolerable. Round against the wall sat his two Princesses, or daughters. Then two men smoking. Not one of them took the slightest notice of us. At last I addressed the Queen, and wished her all the compliments of the season. All then began to talk except the King, who was still asleep. To keep them company I took up the chorus of an old song. They seemed delighted at this, so I gave it them again, laughing violently all the time, my friend imploring me to keep quiet lest I should wake the King and incur his wrath; but he did not awake. We then offered the Queen cigarettes, and the Princesses, and the two men. The nearest Princess chewed her cigarette. After sitting most of an hour we got up to go, and I nearly fell over a black baby lying on the floor, which yelled and woke the King. Up he jumped and greeted us most warmly, shaking hands and asking for 'bacco,' and also 'shillin.' I gave him a cigarette, which he forthwith lit up, imploring me to give him a shilling. I took out my purse and turned it upside down and dropped a piece of money, for which both the Princesses, the Queen, and all the courtiers scrambled. One of the Princesses secured it, and held it up laughing. We then left, saying 'Good-bye,' to which they responded civilly."

CANADA.—The Philadelphia correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that the Saskatchewan rebellion, organised by Riel, wears a serious aspect. His half-breed followers have for some time past been disaffected, because of the failure of the Dominion Government to give them the rights promised at the close of the former Manitoba rising. They have selected this time for a rebellion because the Canadian troops are being prepared for service elsewhere. The half-breeds control a region favourable for a protracted guerrilla warfare, one which is distant from the railway, and in which transportation is difficult. Almost the entire half-breed population in that region sympathise with Riel, together with nearly every one of the Indian tribes. Riel's rendezvous is a strong position beyond Fort Carleton, four miles to the south-west of Duck Lake, where he has cannon, rifles, and ample supplies of provisions. Major Crozier's advance from Fort Carleton was intended to destroy this rendezvous, but Riel defeated him, as already reported. In the fight of last week the rebels lost forty men killed and twenty-three wounded. After his defeat Major Crozier retreated to Fort Carleton, followed by the rebel scouts, but the attack was not renewed. Colonel Irvine had a garrison at Fort Carleton of 260 mounted police. It being evident that Riel could overwhelm him, the Colonel evacuated and burned Fort Carleton on Friday, and retreated towards Qu'Appelle, halting at another trading post, called Prince Albert. He sent despatches to General Middleton, at Qu'Appelle, that a large force must be brought up in order to subdue the rebellion. General Middleton, who had intended to march from Qu'Appelle last week, then decided to await reinforcements. He was expected to advance on Tuesday. He has an available transport service of 240 teams, but his force must make a difficult march to the north-west for nearly two hundred miles. The news caused great excitement throughout Canada, where a popular movement has been set on foot for raising a volunteer force to put down the rising. Troops are gathering at Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal to increase General Middleton's force. Two thousand men are already available for the movement against Riel, though a large portion cannot reach Qu'Appelle for several days. The plan of the campaign is to advance in two columns; one, under General Middleton, will move to Prince Albert and then against Riel; while another will march westward, by Battleford, in order to prevent the retreat of the rebels southward, should they endeavour to escape into the United States. Prince Albert, which Colonel Irvine holds as a Government outpost, is about twenty miles to the north-east of Fort Carleton. Battleford, fifty miles to the west of Fort Carleton, has been abandoned, the settlers, with their families, being sent to Swift Current, a station 150 miles to the southward, on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, west of Qu'Appelle.

At Ottawa news has been received from Battleford stating that three or four chiefs of the Cree Indians, with their followers, had entered the settlement, terrifying the women and demanding food. The whole settlement, numbering 400 persons, fled to the barracks, where they are in safety. The Indians made no further demonstration. The Indians in other districts are in an excited state. General Middleton has advanced to Fort Qu'Appelle. Two of the batteries which were the first to leave Quebec have arrived at the last gap of seven miles on the Canadian Pacific Railway, north of Lake Superior. Four battalions of infantry are rapidly following them.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

Lord Wolseley left Dongola on Monday night for Cairo, taking with him Colonel Grove, Zohrab Bey, Major Childers, Captain Adye, and Dr. Pratt. The whole party travelled on camels. They will be followed immediately by Lord Charles Beresford and Major Creagh, who, however, will travel by water. All will meet at Wady Halfa, and proceed thence by mail steamer to Assouan. They are due in Cairo on the 13th of April.

There was great excitement at Souakim on Sunday because of the arrival of the *Iberia* with the first part of the New South Wales contingent. The arrival of the colonists created the greatest enthusiasm among the ships in the harbour and the troops in camp, and as the *Iberia* steamed up the harbour the crews of all the vessels there thronged the rigging and bulwarks, and cheered tremendously. The troops consisted of 28 officers, 500 men of the battalion of infantry, 33 men of the ambulance corps, and 30 of the artillery, Colonel Richardson commanding the whole. All the infantry wore scarlet tunics and white helmets, with black valises, and are armed with Martini-Henry rifles and sword-bayonets. The artillerymen have repeating carbines. The contingent drew up in line two deep on Shore Island, and was eagerly scanned by the crowd which occupied all the points of vantage on the piles of commissariat stores. Headed by the fife and drum bands of the East Surrey Regiment and the King's (Shropshire) Light Infantry, the Australians then marched over the causeway to the camp; the whole route being lined with an extraordinary heterogeneous gathering, which was in itself a remarkable sight—Indians of the native contingent, soldiers of English regiments, Arabs of the town, camel-drivers, sailors, camp-followers, and Greeks all gathered together to witness the arrival of the new-comers. The officers rode out to see the column, the passing camel convoys were halted, and the pickets and guards turned out. General Graham inspected the colonists, and then addressed them as follows:—

"Colonel Richardson, officers, and soldiers of New South Wales,—In the name of the force which I have the honour to command, I give you a hearty welcome. You are our comrades in arms, who will share the perils, toils, and, I hope, glories of this expedition. I am proud to command such a force. You belong to an empire on which the sun never sets, and every English heart beats with the glorious spirit which knits it into one empire. We honour the feeling which led you to leave your pleasant homes and war against the desert and its savage inhabitants. You are soldiers as well as Englishmen, and will cheerfully submit to the privations and severe discipline necessary for the safety of the army in the field. The eyes of our common country, of the whole English world, are on you. I am sure you will do credit to the splendid colony which sent you out, and the race to which you belong.

This speech was loudly cheered, and the Colonel of the Australians, having obtained permission, then led his men in three cheers for General Graham. The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent says:—

"The colonist contingent is composed of men belonging to all social classes: prosperous citizens; men, strong, straight, and well set up, from the country and the bush; retired soldiers and sailors, artisans, &c. All display an admirable physique and appear to be as hard as nails. Their average height is in excess of that of any British infantry, and their average age appears to be over thirty years. They are fine, bearded fellows, keen for a scrimmage. Whilst I was talking with the commandant he said that every man had got his whole heart in his work, and was thoroughly aware what important bearings this patriotic outburst was bound to have upon the question of colonial federation. But the first and chief reason for his fellow-colonists' enthusiasm was their burning love for the old country, and passionate loyalty to the Crown, seeking no higher reward than the approbation of their Queen and of England—no greater honour than to stand shoulder to shoulder with the imperial troops. He further said that enthusiasm without parallel prevailed throughout the whole colony, which rushed to arms with one ringing shout of "Hurrah for Old England and Our Queen!" Men, money, horses, and supplies poured in without cessation. They only had to pick and choose. All the officers were only anxious to go to the front forthwith. The doctors speak most highly of the stamina and general health of the contingent. The men themselves consider having been selected to serve as the greatest good fortune possible. On talking with them I found their hearty expressions of patriotism were a perfect revelation of colonial pride in England and devotion to her service. The Ambulance Corps is thirty-six strong, including three doctors, one of whom is Surgeon Granville, of the Zulu war. These doctors are assisted by several qualified medical graduates, who have volunteered in order to gain some field experience. The horses are a fine selection, and were landed in admirable condition."

The *Iberia* made a remarkably quick passage, her speed for the whole voyage averaging 320 miles daily.

The following is from the *South Astralian Observer*:—"The New South Wales Government have approved of the following rates of pay for the force about to proceed to Egypt:—Artillery and infantry officers—lieutenant-colonels in command, £650; lieutenant-colonels, £600; majors, £500; captains, £400; lieutenants over three years' service, £355; lieutenants under three years' service, £325; surgeons attached to artillery and infantry, £400; veterinary surgeons, £400; non-commissioned officers, gunners, and privates:—

	Daily.		Deferred.		Total.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Sergeant-major	5	6	4	0	9	6
Quartermaster-sergeants ...	5	0	3	9	8	9
Sergeants	4	0	3	6	7	6
Corporals	3	4	3	0	6	6
Bombardiers	3	2	2	10	6	0
Trumpeters, buglers, gunners, and privates.....	2	3	2	9	5	0

Also a subsistence allowance in the case of married non-commissioned officers, gunners, and privates of 2s. per diem to wife, and 6d. per diem to each girl under 16 and to each boy under 14 years of age. With regard to the families of the staff officers and of the New South Wales artillery and volunteers permanent staff, the Government have approved of those now in the occupation of quarters remaining therein, and of those for whom quarters are not provided retaining their present rates of lodging allowance. The Government also approve of pensions being granted for casualties, as provided for in the Imperial military service. The Government further guarantee that persons giving up their appointments in the public service to join the expeditionary force will be reinstated on their return in equal positions."

The reports are gaining strength at Souakim that Osman Digna has been deserted by all but a handful of men, and that he has fled to Tamanieb. The convoys to the zarebas have seen no sign of the enemy. A white flag is reported to be flying at Osman Digna's advanced position, and a mounted force had been sent out to reconnoitre and ascertain whether or not this statement be correct. The *Daily News* correspondent states that a messenger from the enemy's camp arrived there on Monday with a white flag, asking on what terms peace could be made.

As the convoy was starting for the zareba on Tuesday, General Graham rode up, ordered the marines aside, and collecting them around him, made a speech in acknowledgment of their services since the campaign commenced. Circumstances had hitherto prevented him from personally inspecting them, and he had gladly taken the present opportunity. He was delighted to observe their efficient appearance after the heat of the summer, and the hard fighting in which they had taken so conspicuous a part during the last week. In consideration of the hardships they had undergone he had ordered that they should return to camp for a rest. They had served him well in the past, and he hoped to have them often again under his command.

The number of sick and wounded in the British force at Souakim is about 500, including forty cases of sunstroke and other effects of excessive heat and exhaustion. As the base hospital provides accommodation for only 140 patients, the auxiliary hospital on Quarantine Island has been enlarged so as to hold another hundred beds. An advanced medical depot has been formed at the zareba under Surgeon-major Hamilton; and in order to relieve the pressure on the medical department, the *Pembroke Castle*, which left for England on Tuesday, took 200 invalids with her, including Robertson, of the Bengal Cavalry; Lieutenant the Hon. A. D. Charteris, of the Guards; and Marchant and Maclurcan, of the Marines, together with Digan, of the *Sphinx*, who have been wounded; also Colonels Gildea and Barton, of the staff; Campbell and Lloyd, of the Marines; and Manley, of the Scots Guards, who are sick.

In a letter from Souakim dated the 12th ult., a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* corroborates a report which has already been published about the defenceless state of our camp there until the murder of our soldiers nightly while they slept caused measures to be taken for their safety. As to the arrangement of the camp he says:—

"The front of our camp is considerably over three miles in stretch, while the relative positions of the tents have been arranged apparently solely for the convenience of Osman Digna's hyænas. The standing order for the immediate entrenchment of all lines was not enforced, and the time and manner for defending their regiments were left to the discretion of their respective colonels, the result having proved so inadequate that if it were not for the hideous consequences it would have been absurd. Our sleeping soldiers lie virtually at the mercy of the enemy, and in the Hadendowas' inexplicable forbearance the country has much to be grateful for. They have refrained from slaughter with a self-denial that in such foes is positively heroic. The Coldstreams slept two nights with nothing between them and the stealthy, murderous spears of the Soudanese; till the day before yesterday the headquarters staff went to bed without even an earthwork to protect them from the snake-like attack of the enemy. Yet the Hadendowas were content with an odd soldier or two here or there. With the lives of generals and their staffs in their hands they sneaked instead into the tents of privates. To the Providence that protects the helpless, Generals Greaves, M'Neill, and the rest owe their lives—to nothing else."

Describing how the attacks were made, the correspondent goes on to say:—

"Crawling along on all-fours, the Arabs traverse the space between them and their victims with all the patient caution of wild beasts stalking prey. They reach the doomed tent. For the sake of the sea-breeze the doorway is open, and the next instant the murderer is standing by the sleeping soldier's side. He feels a hand passing over his body and starts. A cry is rising to his lips. It is strangled in his throat by a groan of pain, and before the gallant fellow can even warn his comrades the fierce spear is driven home through his body, the heavy two-handled sword has fallen across him. But the tent is alarmed. There is no time to lose! Slashing this way and that, the murderers stab and hack with the fury of fiends, and then as the camp starts to its feet in clamour they are off. Not a sound betrays their passing. There is no trace of blood to tell of retribution. They are gone—back into the villainous gullies, back into the scattered brush; and next we can imagine them sitting to refresh themselves outside our line of redoubts—to listen gleefully to the storm they have raised—the bugles telling the old tale of murder completed and the murderers gone, the aimless volleys of rifles, the din of voices, the impotent utterances of our indignant guns roaring for an impossible vengeance."

The following extract from Miot's *Narrative of the French Expedition to Egypt*, relating the adventures of a premature Mahdi, is not without interest now:—

"In the beginning of May a most singular scene, which caused the revolt of the province of Bahreh, was presented. An adventurer from the centre of Africa disembarked at Derneh, and immediately on his arrival announced himself to be the Angel El Mahdy promised by the Prophet, and gathered the Arabs about him. A few days after there arrived 200 Mangrabins, who likewise placed themselves under his orders. The Angel El Mahdy was expected to descend from heaven: the impostor accordingly pretended that he had descended from heaven into the midst of the desert. On the naked or destitute he lavished the gold which he had the art to conceal. He proceeded towards Damanhour, surprised sixty men of the marine legion who had been imprudently left there, instead of being placed in the redoubt of Ramanieh, and massacred them. Encouraged by this success, he excited the imagination of his disciples to the utmost; by casting a little dust against our cannon he pretended to be able to prevent their explosion, and cause the balls to fall harmless before the true believers. Many attest the truth of hundreds of miracles of this description which he performed. Colonel Lefebre left Ramanieh with four hundred men to proceed against this Angel, but seeing every instant the number of the enemy increase he felt the impossibility of reducing so large a body of enthusiasts. He formed his men into squares, and thus continued during the whole of the day the slaughter of these senseless men, who fearlessly precipitated themselves upon our cannons, unable to recover from their delusion. It was not until night, on counting their killed (of whom there were upwards of a thousand) and their wounded, that they comprehended that miracles had ceased. Damanhour, the centre of the insurrection, was at length destroyed by General Lannesse, who there put to the sword 500 men." The spirit of Arab fanaticism is nothing new. It is its skill which, to our cost, has so greatly developed. Mahdis there have always been, and in goodly numbers. "I have myself hung three of them," says Ismail Pasha. But of the many seeds cast on the ground this is the first that has taken firm root in modern times, and a portentous growth it bids fair to become.

Since the experiment of sending a balloon with the convoy for taking observations was first tried, nothing whatever had been heard about that interesting scout, until the *Times* correspondent disclosed some day what later happened:—

"The balloon was taken to the right water fort on Tuesday, and filled from the compressed reservoirs during the night. At daylight, when the convoy was ready to start for the zareba, Lieutenant Mackenzie ascended 200ft., and was then towed by a rope, attached to a wagon, in the centre of the square. Major Templar was in charge below—a post requiring much care and attention, in order to keep the waggon steady, if possible, so as to avoid breaking the rope. Lieutenant Mackenzie says that the bush, which seen from the ground is dense and obscures the view, seems quite open from a height. He saw the enemy's camel posts out a mile on the road towards Hasheen. Another body was retiring towards Tamai, and a third, near the sea-shore, was engaged in capturing or destroying the stampeded camels. The enemy were also seen at some 400 yards' distance from the convoy, and they came out into the open space left in front to examine the balloon. Messages passed between Lieutenant Mackenzie and Major Templar, written on small pieces of paper attached by a loop to a rope. On the arrival of the convoy in the zareba the balloon was hauled down, packed, and brought back to Souakim. It is made of goldbeaters' skin, contains 7,000 cubic feet of gas, is 23 feet in diameter, and its total weight is 90lb. I asked Lieutenant Mackenzie what he would do in the event of a disaster below. He replied that he had thought of that point while in the air, and had decided to come down and anchor fifty feet from the ground, and defend the anchor from the balloon until rescued. Major Templar is much pleased with the result of the ascent, as proving that a war balloon can render good service far from home, and remain for nine hours with gas made in Chatham. Besides the balloon, he has a portable lime search light, which is constantly used in the camp and zareba, with success.

IRELAND.

The Rev. Canon Hegarty, administrator of the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, Cork, has written a remarkable letter deprecating the tone assumed by certain Nationalists with respect to the Royal visit, and advocating the claims of the Prince of Wales to a hearty welcome from Irish Catholics on special grounds. He says:—

"The Prince soon after his marriage, in the course of a visit to Rome, called upon the Rev. Father Mullooly, the Prior of St. Clement's. At that time the treasures of the Church were under the protection of the British flag. They dared not keep them where they might tempt the cupidity of the rapacious Italians. The Prince inquired after the safety of St. Clement's, and Father Mullooly replied that they were as yet undisturbed, but they did not know how long that happy state of things would continue. 'Whenever you are molested,' was the reply of the Prince, 'send me a telegram, and I shall not fail to do you a service.' Again and again have the Government longed to get St. Clement's under their paternal care, but never have they dared to cross the threshold of that ancient monument of Catholicity. The Prince of Wales has kept his word and St. Clement's is inviolable. May I ask if the gentlemen whose password is now 'respectful neutrality' will stand between the Prince and the men who wish to give honour to whom honour is due? There is but one objection to his Royal Highness's visit that has a shadow of a substance in it—viz., that he comes to whitewash his Excellency Earl Spencer. Even if that were true, and I utterly repudiate such an allegation, there is no reason why we Irish Catholics should assume an attitude of sullen and offensive silence on the occasion. If that reason holds good, then I claim for myself from an impartial jury the right to object to Mr. Parnell because he goes to Paris and accepts hospitality from and associates with Rochefort and his party and visits Bradlaugh in the Clock Tower."

A shocking murder, arising out of a feud between two families, was committed last week at a place called Crook, near Passage East, County Waterford, and five miles from the city. A farmer's son named Flynn was out on his father's farm carting manure, and while he was so engaged the son of a neighbouring farmer named Colfer came on his land accompanied by a dog, which ran at Flynn's horse, and the animal being frightened fell. Flynn at once attacked young Colfer, who, being worsted in the fight, went home and induced his two brothers to return with him to obtain satisfaction. The three young men went up to Flynn's house, and the quarrel was renewed outside. Their father, James Colfer, hearing of it, proceeded to the spot with his daughters for the purpose of putting a stop to it, and was in the act of calling upon his son to cease quarrelling and return home when Martin Flynn, the father of the young man who was fighting, appeared suddenly on the scene with a loaded gun, and without saying a word presented it at James Colfer and shot him dead. Information was conveyed to the police, and Flynn was arrested. A very bad feeling has existed for some years between the two families.

The houses of farmers named Grimes and Hammond, residing at Annacotty, county Limerick, were fired into a few nights ago. The outrage took place near midnight, a considerable time after the inmates had gone to bed. No injury was done beyond the breaking of a few panes of glass, and it is supposed the outrage was the result of an impression which prevailed that one of the persons was about to take possession of a farm from which there had been an eviction. Fourteen sheep, belonging to a farmer named John O'Keeffe, living near Midleton, in county Cork, were found yesterday morning to have been maimed, their ears having been cut off. O'Keeffe recently went into occupation of a farm from which the former tenant was evicted.

Particulars of some fruitless efforts to enforce evictions in the parishes of Crolly and Loughiel, in the North of Ireland, on Tuesday have reached Dublin. Twenty-one families, described as in a miserable condition, were to be evicted by the sub-sheriff, who was accompanied by a force of police. The evicting party drove in cars, and were met at Crolly by a crowd of people numbering some thousands, who had gathered from all parts of the country. The people hooted and groaned at the police, but were restrained from actual violence by two Catholic priests. When the sub-sheriff and police arrived opposite the first house from which a family was to be evicted the people stood in one massed group before the door and refused to budge. The priests were then asked to interfere, so that an entrance to the house might be effected. They, however, refused to interfere with the people, and declared that their sympathies were with them and not with the authorities. The party then proceeded to other houses, but were again prevented from entering by the people massing in front of the doors. Finally, the police-inspector gave orders to his men to fix bayonets, and the force were charging on the people when the priests rushed forward begging the police to stop and praying the people not to oppose force to force. The police accordingly unfixed bayonets, and were withdrawn to a distance amidst the groans and hooting of the crowd. Affairs then became so threatening, the people appearing desirous of fighting the police, that the sub-sheriff, considered his force not large enough, decided not to proceed with the evictions. Another attempt will be made to carry out the evictions with a larger force.

In the Roman Catholic Chapel at Edenderry, King's County, a pew belonging to a landowner and farmer named Richard Robinson has been found smashed to pieces. The greater part of the woodwork and of the cushions, which also had been cut up, were found in a field. There was no appearance of the door or windows of the chapel having been forced. The outrage is attributed to the independent attitude taken by Mr. Robinson in the recent poor-law elections, and in opposition to a system of terrorism pursued against the people.

A mock proclamation, bearing the arms of Dublin was found posted in the streets of that city on Wednesday morning. It refers to the theft of the Mansion House flag, and announces that for the recovery of the flag there will be paid a reward of £10,000 "out of the funds belonging and appertaining to the late Land League, and supposed to be in the possession of one Pat Egan, late of this city but now in the United States of America." A further reward of £5,000, payable out of the same fund, is offered for such information as shall lead to the arrest and conviction, "before the Supreme Court of the National League," of the persons who stole the flag.

The *Panama Star and Herald* to March 5 has been received, and from its columns we take the following items:—"The reported seizure at Colon of the Canal Company's tug *Gamecock* by General Ruiz and some of his partisans has been confirmed. It was effected at four a.m. on the 1st, but no particulars of the occurrence or where she has gone to are known. General Ruiz had attempted to obtain possession of a steam launch during the day, ostensibly for the purpose of proceeding to Porto Bello, but had failed. Captain Stevens, of the Canal Company, and Mr. Kirkpatrick, both Englishmen, and three native watchmen are missing. The captain, engineer, and firemen of the captured vessel were on shore, and consequently escaped being carried off. A letter written in Barranquilla on February 21 says:—'News received yesterday from the interior announces the complete defeat by Mateus of Restrepo, Figuerado, Amador, and Acevedo, who were all together. The Government forces fought with great bravery, and won a complete victory. Generals Vergara and Amador were killed, and almost all their men are prisoners, among them being Figueredo and Restrepo. A part of the munitions Gatan gave them were captured. The battle was a bloody one. Manotas has stated that he will enter Carthagena without a shot being fired, because he will be supported by Colonels Rodriquez and Beltran.' The steamer *West Indian*, Captain Coward, which arrived at Colon a few days ago, brought some interesting news from Carthagena. Captain Coward reports that on the evening of February 24 Captain Curtis, of the British man-of-war *Canada*, now at Carthagena, while going on board his ship, was fired on by Government soldiers. The boat is said to have been literally riddled with bullets. Captain Curtis and the men of the boat's crew were wounded from the splinters which flew about, although they were not struck by any of the missiles which were showered down upon them. Captain Coward also reports that the bullets were falling like hail around his ship, the *West Indian*, where she was lying at anchor in the harbour. No reason was assigned for such a proceeding but the usual stereotyped one, that it was a mistake. A serious one it was, and on the following day, General Santodomingo Vila made ample apologies to Captain Curtis."

The Picture Gallery Reflector.—Chappuis Factory, 69, Fleet-street.

Imperial Parliament.

At two o'clock last Saturday morning the House of Commons declared by 294 votes to 246 that the International Convention on the affairs of Egypt had its approval. The attendance of members was smaller, until within an hour or two of the division, than on the previous evening, and, except for some three or four speeches, the debate was lacking in spirit. Among the listeners was M. Lessar, who had a place in the gallery set apart for distinguished strangers. The melancholy exhibition of the previous night, when hardly a solitary unofficial member could be found to express any liking for the Convention, was not repeated, and a few friends of the Government who did not sit on the Treasury bench were found to declare, with more or less faintness and more or less qualification, that it commanded their approval.

A graphic sketch of the conclusion of the debate was given in the *Observer*, which says that Mr. Childers came out in unexpected colours. He has been a quarter of a century in the House of Commons, and no one suspected him of being a practical joker. When, half-an-hour after midnight, Sir Stafford Northcote rose, his interposition as sign of the near conclusion of the business was hailed with grateful cheers. Sir Stafford was commendably brief. The House was crowded, but not to hear speeches. What everybody wanted was to vote, and go home to bed. Sir S. Northcote is too kindly a man, and has a too intimate knowledge of the House of Commons, to stand at half-past twelve at night in the way of accomplishment of such desire. He sat down at ten minutes to one, and Mr. Childers appeared at the table. There was a twinkle in his eye, and a twitching of his lips that portended something strange. But no one suspected what was to follow. "I do not propose," said the Chancellor in the opening words of his memorable speech, "to address the committee at any great length." The committee did not suppose he would. But it was well to encourage the intention, and so it cheered. Presently it became clear that Mr. Childers was not going to perform the task expected of him in the circumstances—to wind up in a few brief, brisk sentences a debate in which absence of interest had been shown in unusually conspicuous degree. He was evidently in for a regular and detailed reply on the two nights' debate. The committee first stared, then frowned, and finally went to sleep. Probably there never were in the history of the House of Commons so many members asleep at the same time as were discovered in that position at a quarter past one on Saturday morning. At the end of the Treasury Bench sat Mr. Mundella, with arms folded and chin sunk on his breast. On his right hand, seated on the lowest step of the gangway, was Mr. Whitworth tied up in a curious knot and fast asleep. At the remote end of the Treasury Bench Lord Hartington, Mr. Hibbert, and Mr. Campbell Bannerman slumbered. Just behind Mr. Gladstone, Sir George Balfour and Alderman Lawrence slept in beauty side by side. Two members, unrecognisable behind hats tilted over their faces, slept on the cross benches. Still Mr. Childers, with monotonous movement of the head, droned along, but always, to the close observer, with a twinkle in his eye and the chuckle with difficulty restrained. Mr. Forster slept on the corner bench behind. Mr. Goschen dozed off, waking now and then when Mr. Childers referred to any sum over £500,000. On went the orator, roaming over wastes of Blue Books and dipping into the fascinating topic of the Egyptian Budget.

Mr. Gladstone now joined the majority and soundly slept. Mr. Freemantle, with his head dangerously tilted on one side, would have come to grief, but for the fortuitous circumstance that Mr. Ackers, who was sleeping on his left hand side, had bent over towards him. Now and then the tip of his hat bumped the bare head of Mr. Freemantle. Both awoke with a start, gradually went off to sleep again, slowly, but inevitably, came into collision, and soon *da capo*. At 1.20 Mr. Childers, pulling himself together, cheerily said: "And now I will answer two or three questions put to me by gentlemen opposite." Here the patience of the few members who could not get to sleep broke forth in an angry growl, which awoke the sleepers with a start. "And now," Mr. Childers pleasantly added at half-past one, "a word or two on the speech of the hon. baronet opposite," meaning Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, who had dropped off to sleep again. Once more the committee roared for the division, and Mr. Freemantle awoke with the idea that Mr. Ackers' hat had this time tumbled off on to him. At 1.35 a.m. Mr. Childers said: "But there is one matter"—"Oh! oh!" cried the committee. "Divide! divide!" roared the awakened sleepers. "One matter only," he added, looking round the animated scene, always with the curious twinkle in his eye. This limitation was loudly cheered. But members were evidently at the end of their patience. "At this time of the evening," said Mr. Childers, glancing blandly at the clock, which pointed to 1.40 a.m., "I would say no more." Something else he added, but it was lost amid the roar of applause which greeted this sentence, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer resumed his seat, having thoroughly enjoyed himself. It was an excellent joke, but one that might in the present lawless condition of the public mind be personally dangerous to repeat.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

Lord Hartington, answering, in the absence of Mr. Gladstone, a question from Sir G. Campbell as to the meaning of the military preparations being made in this country and India, said we had entered into engagements under certain conditions with the Ameer of Afghanistan, and, looking to the distance which separated our military forces from Afghanistan, it was thought desirable that measures should be taken to enable us to fulfil our engagements if occasion arose. Sir S. Northcote gave notice that he would on Tuesday ask whether the Government could give any information as to the present state of the negotiations; but subsequently, Mr. Stanhope having asked when the Delimitation Commission was likely to meet, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said he was not able to give any precise information; but the answer from Russia, which was on its way, was understood to contemplate the early meeting of the Commission and to look forward to it as likely to allay the excitement on both sides. Having regard to the conciliatory character of this reply, the Government, he said, would deprecate the use of language which might cause irritation and endanger a peaceful solution. In answer to questions from Colonel Stanley and Mr. Chaplin, Lord Hartington fixed Monday week for the discussion of the Royal Message on the Reserves, and said there would be no delay in stating what classes would be called out. Answering a question from Mr. Gorst, the Attorney-General said that a local ordinance had been passed authorising the Governor of Gibraltar to retain Zebehr Pasha.

On the motion for going into Supply, Mr. S. Buxton called attention to the inconveniences of the Ladies' Gallery, and, seconded by Mr. Pulesron, moved a resolution in favour of substituting for the present grating a railing so light as not to exclude air and sound. Mr. H. Gladstone, in reply, said that the Board of Works was anxious to carry out the wishes of the House in this respect, and would be glad to make any improvements which were possible. In fact, various improvements had been made; and as to ventilation, he pointed out that the situation of the gallery made any improvements in this respect very difficult. There was no proof, however, that this particular change was desired by the ladies, and no decision on the subject had ever been given by the House. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett and Sir R. Peel supported the motion; while Mr. Gibson and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre held that the ladies as a rule were opposed to the removal of the grating, which would destroy the freedom they at present enjoyed. On a division the motion was negatived by 121 to 75. To this there followed a short discussion on the island of Heligoland which Mr. Gorst suggested should be transferred to Germany, on the ground that it is of no mercantile or strategical value to this country, and that the expenditure on it is constantly increasing. Sir H. Holland, however, held that the island would be of considerable strategical importance; and Sir E. Watkin pointed to the importance of the island as a refuge for the boats fishing on the Dogger Bank. Lord E. Fitzmaurice pointed out that the reasons advanced for giving up Heligoland to Germany would equally apply to a proposal to cede the Channel Islands to France, and contended that the main question was as to the wishes of the inhabitants of the island, who, he believed, had no wish that it should be annexed to Germany. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, while admitting that Germany did not attach much importance to the island, expressed an emphatic dissent from the suggestion that it was of no use to this country. A long conversation by the Irish members then ensued as to the dismissal of Inspector Murphy from the Irish Constabulary, in the course of which Mr. Campbell-Bannerman and the Solicitor-General for Ireland justified his dismissal on the ground that he had been guilty of repeated acts of insubordination.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and agreed to several votes in Class I. (Public Works and Buildings) of the Civil Service Estimates. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, in bringing in the Sixpenny Telegrams Bill, explained that its principal provision is the institution of a uniform rate of 1d. for every two words, including addresses, with a *minimum* charge of 6d. This tariff would result, he estimated, in an increase of business, of which a large proportion would be at the *minimum* rate. The average receipts for telegrams would be reduced from 13d. to 10d., and the average cost would be reduced from 10d. to 8¾d. The total difference to the Department would be about £180,000. After some discussion, leave was given to bring in the Bill, and, some other business having been disposed of,

The House was counted out at two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

At question time several questions were put by Mr. Bourke, Mr. Magniac, Mr. Forster, and others, as to the treatment of rice as contraband of war by the French commanders in Chinese waters, and Lord E. Fitzmaurice, after stating that notification of the declaration of war had been received, in answering them, said the question whether rice should be regarded as contraband of war, irrespective of whether it was intended to victual ships or fortresses or for the food of the people, would be decided, in the first instance, by a French Prize Court; but, though the Government could not assume that a French Court would give a wrong decision, they would protest against such a principle. Sir H. Wolff asked whether there was any precedent for treating an article as contraband of war before war was declared, but the Under-Secretary declined to go into a discussion of international law. In answer to Sir G. Campbell, Lord Hartington said that the War Office had no confirmation of the news that Osman Digna is suing for peace, but he had just heard from General Graham that spies reported the abandonment of Hasheen and Tamai, and a reconnaissance had been ordered. Lord J. Manners gave notice that at the proper stage of the Sixpenny Telegram Bill he would move an amendment retaining free addresses.

On the motion that the House at its rising adjourn until the 9th of April, Sir S. Northcote, premising that he thoroughly recognised the necessity of extreme caution at such a juncture, asked the Government, as the House was about to adjourn for ten days, whether any information could be given as to the state of the negotiations in regard to the Afghan frontier, which might correct mischievous misstatements, allay alarm, and assure the country that the national policy of standing by our ally would be maintained. Lord Hartington replied that the Government, feeling deeply their responsibilities in this matter, would be gratified if they could take the House fully into their confidence, but at the present moment they felt bound to deprecate any attempt to precipitate a statement. Reminding the House of the important issues of policy at stake, of the excitement in the two countries, and especially of the strong military opinion in Russia constantly striving to counteract the peaceful efforts of diplomacy, he dwelt on the possible danger of a discussion, in which some unguarded word might invest the military preparations which the Government had made with the appearance of menace, which they were not intended to wear. He pointed out that at this very moment the Ameer and the Viceroy were in communication as to the conditions on which our support depended, and he assured the House that Lord Dufferin was in possession of instructions which he himself considered sufficient. Moreover a temporary undertaking had been given by the Russian Government that their troops should not advance beyond the positions they now occupied, and we had given similar advice to the Afghans, while at the same time advising them not to withdraw; and as to the permanent delimitation various communications had passed to and fro between the two Governments, the last of which was now on its way from Russia, and, as the House had been informed, it was believed to be of a most conciliatory and friendly character. Under all these circumstances he thought he should be wanting in his duty if he attempted to add anything to the statements already made by the Prime Minister and the Under-Secretary. Mr. J. Lowther, animadverting in a sarcastic tone on the policy of the Government towards Turkey and their strained relations with the other European Powers, asked for an assurance that we should return to our old relations with the Ottoman Empire. Mr. Onslow, referring to the statement of Lord Hartington on the Afghan question, remarked that similar assurances had been given months ago, and asserted that the limitation of Russian territory was a settled matter—there could be no compromise; and he pressed for an intimation that the Government intended to be firm in the matter. Colonel Dawnay called attention to the condition of the army on the Nile, protesting against the purposeless bloodshed in the Soudan. Mr. Hopwood called attention to numerous cases in which a miscarriage of justice had occurred in criminal trials, and strongly urged the importance of instituting a Court of Criminal Appeal. Sir W. Harcourt, who dissented from Mr. Hopwood's arguments, agreed that it was desirable that some such Court should be established. He incidentally mentioned that in late years crime of a serious nature had very materially diminished, and thought the time had come when sentences might be made much less severe than they were. Replying to Mr. Lowther, he said the Government were extremely desirous of cultivating friendly relations with Turkey as well as with Germany and Austria. He ridiculed the observations of Colonel Dawnay as being a speech in favour of the amendment of Mr. J. Morley in the recent debate on the Egyptian policy of the Government; and in answer to Mr. Onslow he pointed out that his conclusions were manifestly incorrect, for if the boundaries of Afghanistan had been settled as he alleged, the present Commission to fix those boundaries would not have been appointed. Sir E. Wilmot supported the application of Mr. Hopwood for the institution of a Court of Criminal Appeal, and Mr. S. Smith protested against a continuation of the war in the Soudan. Mr. Sexton complained of the refusal of the Canadian Government to allow Mr. B. O'Reilly, an escaped political convict, to visit Canada, and Sir W. Harcourt stated that, being a person who had been guilty of a breach of prison discipline, he had been treated accordingly, and that he, as Home Secretary, had no power to interfere. Mr. W. Fowler, reverting to the Egyptian question, strenuously urged the Government to reconsider their policy of slaughter in the Soudan, and Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, criticising the Ministerial policy in relation to the Afghan difficulty, regretted that no definite information had been extracted from the Government. Mr. Redmond, Mr. Barry, Mr. A. O'Connor, and Mr. Campbell-Bannerman made some remarks, and Mr. Kenny was speaking at ten minutes to seven, when the debate stood adjourned.

At the Evening Sitting a desultory conversation on the maladministration of criminal justice in Ireland was continued by Mr. Kenny, Mr. O'Brien, and Mr. Harrington, and the motion to adjourn until April 9 was agreed to.

The House adjourned at five minutes past ten o'clock.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The total number of members who took part in the division on Saturday morning on the Egyptian Loan was (inclusive of tellers) 544. Allowance having been made for the Speaker, the number of absentees was consequently 113. The vote was given almost entirely on party lines, the only Liberal who voted with the Opposition being Mr. Joseph Cowen. The majority (294) was made up of 226 English, 46 Scotch, and 22 Irish members, and the minority (246) of 193 English, 44 Irish, and nine Scotch. Of the 44 Irish went with the Opposition, 24 only were Home Rulers, who recognise the lead of Mr. Parnell. Twelve Home Rulers, who have seceded from the Nationalist party, went into the Government lobby. The Ministerial majority of 48 included 33 official members. Of 103 Irish members 37 were absent, but of 60 returned by Scotland but five failed to put in an appearance, and two were paired. Seven Irish members were paired.

When the House of Commons reassembles on Thursday next Mr. Raikes will ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when, and in what form, the communications between her Majesty's Government and the Porte relating to the signature of the recent Convention concerning Egyptian finance will be communicated to Parliament.

Lord Rosebery was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the National Reform Union at Manchester on Wednesday night. Replying to a vote of confidence in the Government, he protested against the misrepresentations which were constantly being made of the Ministerial policy in the Soudan. He said their military policy was designed to secure certain defined civilising objects, and in respect to the proceedings which were now taking place at Souakim, he said that they were taken on the advice of Lord Wolseley, who held that they were necessary to the safety of the English force. Speaking on his own behalf, he expressed the opinion that the best hopes for the future of the Soudan lay in the formation of an English trading company, by which means alone the land could be opened to the advantages of peace, commerce, and civilisation. With respect to Afghanistan, he declared that the Government were determined on the treaty arrangements with the Ameer, and said that they were anxious to secure a definite and final settlement of the difficulties which beset us. They had good hopes of a peaceful solution, but were prepared to defend the honour and interests of the nation.

Sir C. Dilke presided on Wednesday night at a lecture delivered by Mr. G. Russell, M.P., on the Corporate Property Security Bill, and said that if the City Companies were well advised they would accept that measure, in the expectation that, if loyally acted up to, they might, in the pressure of business, escape further legislation during the next few years.

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, M.P., at Reading on Wednesday night, alluded to his proposals for cheap telegrams, and said he hoped to popularise the parcel post, and to adapt it to international use. Referring to the extended franchise and redistributed seats, he said the people would be more fairly represented than ever before, and that many important questions, among them that relating to land, would come to the front.

Mr. John Morley, M.P., addressing a meeting of the Liberal Five Hundred at Newcastle, on Wednesday night, said, with reference to Afghanistan, that if, on the examination of the official papers, they found that Russia had asked that which we could not grant, the unanimous cry of the country would be to fight; but, with his present information, he did not see anything to prevent the question from being settled by the arbitration of some neutral Power. It would be an outrage to force a war with Russia without just cause. On the Soudan question it was the duty of the country to let the Government know what were its opinions.

The Revenue Return which was made up to March 31 shows that during the past year the receipts have amounted to £88,043,110 being a net increase of £837,926 over 1884. During the past quarter the receipts show an increase in every branch, the total increase being £2,533,227, of which £1,682,000 is from property and income tax.

The Liberals of the Eastbourne Division held a conference on Tuesday, at which addresses were delivered by Mr. F. W. H. Cavendish, Mr. Wallis (steward to the Duke of Devonshire), Mr. Herman Merivale, and others. Lord Edward Cavendish, M.P., wrote regretting his absence, and expressing his warm interest in Liberalism at Eastbourne. It was decided to defer the selection of a candidate until the new Central Liberal Council had been consolidated. At a conference of Conservatives, attended by delegates from various East Sussex associations, Sir Henry Fletcher was unanimously selected to contest the division.

MR. GLADSTONE'S THOUGHTS.

There must be a certain bitterness—a sense that Providence is dealing out to him some of that severe irony with which the Almighty not unfrequently tries men of high aspirations—at Mr. Gladstone's heart as he looks at the situation of to-day. "If there is one object more than another," he may be supposed to say to himself, "in which I have really taken an honest pride, it is in my desire to infuse a higher spirit into international intercourse, and to base the mutual dealings of nations on the same principles of equity as all good and honourable men have learned to apply in the mutual dealings of private life. The first great speech in which I succeeded in showing that Palmerston's ideal of foreign policy was a poor and flashy ideal—the speech on the Don Pacifico question—was the confession of my own faith on the great subject of the right use of our national strength in dealing with weaker Powers. I have never swerved from that faith. I succeeded beyond my own best hopes in illustrating it when I called attention to the organised cruelty of the old Neapolitan Government, and gave the first feeble impulse to that cause of Italian liberty which has since borne such noble fruits. Even in relation to a great Power like Russia—a Power neither scrupulous nor civilised—I endeavoured, not without success, to introduce fairer standards of criticism; and I uttered a protest against refusing from her during the Crimean war what I thought reasonable terms of peace, a protest which, though unsuccessful at the time, doubtless secured my purpose in the end. There has never been a decade since I first entered the Cabinet when I have not really contributed something to a humaner foreign policy,—to the strengthening of Greece, for instance, by the cession of the Ionian Islands; to the strengthening of Italy, by soothing the senseless panic to which the cession of Nice and Savoy to France had led; to the strengthening of Belgium, when war broke out between France and Germany, and I was enabled to secure the adhesion of both Powers to the treaty for preserving the neutrality of Belgium; to the salvation of Bulgaria and Montenegro, when the policy of Lord Beaconsfield would have sacrificed both; and to that cession of Thessaly to Greece which she would never have gained but for my return to power. And it was my greatest pride that the same event restored Afghanistan to independence and checked that fire-eating spirit among the Anglo-Indians which has always filled me with dread.

"And yet now, after fifty years of public life, and more than a complete generation of the highest office, where do I find myself? I am waging a bloody war against Arabian tribes, to whom I never grudged, and never can grudge, a single foot of the deserts over which they love to range. Instead of improving the talent which God has given to English industry by a thrifty and prudent economy and a gradual reduction of financial burdens, I am asking Parliament for millions to be expended in shooting Arabs in one Continent and in preparing to shoot Russians in another. Nor do I really see how I could have avoided either task,—unless, indeed, I had been false to all my principles of action, and had begun to bluster so soon, and with such an air of ostentatious imperiousness, that neither Egypt nor Russia would have ventured to take the action they have. I am told, and I am not quite sure that there may not be something in it, that if Palmerston, with his bluster, had been in Granville's place, Arabi would never have lifted his hand against the Khedive, and Russia would never have let loose her wild men in the Turcoman deserts. They tell me it is because I have been so soft-spoken that Egypt fell into anarchy, and Russia saw her opportunity to squeeze something out of her best English friend. And it may be so, for neither Egyptian soldiers nor Slavonic Generals are reasonable creatures. They are guided much more by flourishes which appeal to the imagination than by respect for the considerateness and sincerity of honest statesmanship; and I do not feel by any means confident that the time is come when by trusting nations exactly as you would trust equals

in private society, you will get out of them the most temperate and the most equitable conduct. It is, I suppose, as childish to reason mildly with a false prophet as to order the waves of the sea to retire. And, perhaps, a Cossack General is not in any very high degree the superior of a False Prophet. At all events, this is certain, that at the close of my career I am half doubting whether my own great principles of international policy can be successfully applied to countries in which no principles of civic self-restraint have ever been fostered, and where the right of the strongest is the only law. I may well say, 'Woe is me, that I am constrained to dwell with Meshech, and to have my habitation among the tents of Kedar. My soul hath long dwelt among them that are enemies to peace. I labour for peace; but when I speak unto them thereof, they make them ready to battle;' and so it may well happen that the latest result of a foreign policy, conceived in a spirit which I sincerely believe to have been Christian, is to be found in these blood-sprinkled deserts, and may yet be the pouring out of new rivers of blood among the fastnesses of Central Asia. It is a hard fate to waste the millions which industry so much values on senseless slaughter. But it is a harder fate to feel that the very considerateness and generosity which have produced such great results in Europe are likely to produce evils almost overbalancing them in the wild fastnesses of Africa and Asia; and to be told, not perhaps without truth, that if I had dealt more roughly with these barbarians, I should have spared both English blood and treasure, and the lives of innocent warriors who find a sort of glory in dying by English bullets or English bayonets. Truly, at the end of my career Providence is showing me that the reasonableness and humility which may take the form of frankness in Europe, must disguise their real attitude in the East, if they are not to be mistaken for that poltroonery for which all my enemies give me credit in their complete ignorance of the deep tenacity of purpose which is, as I believe, the root of my whole bearing in public life. They must think what they will. But if I know anything of myself, my only mistake has been in too easily supposing barbarians capable of self-government, and in thinking them willing to recognise disinterestedness where disinterestedness really exists. And the penalty I have to pay for that mistake is to read daily of wholesale massacres where I had hoped to hear of the strides of civilisation, and to be obliged to tax heavily the industry which I had hoped every year to emancipate from needless burdens. This is the true irony of destiny, to make me reap the bloodiest wars as the fruit of a too passionate love of peace, and the spread of desolation, where I had coveted the part of restoring not only prosperity, but independence." If Mr. Gladstone ever indulges in such a soliloquy as this, will not history at least take up and justify the burden of his sad reflections?

*** It is perhaps necessary to assure our readers that the above article is not a squib or an invention of some malignant enemy of the G.O.M. We quote it from the *Spectator*, and the only suggestion which occurs to us is that somebody, having noticed the complaints of our contemporary on the deficiency of a sense of humour at the present day, has been taking advantage of the absence of that sense in the Editor.

THE INDIAN ARMY.

We abridge the following statement from an admirable paper recently published in the *Globe*:—

The Indian army, or rather armies, as the vassal States may be taken into consideration when treating of Russian invasion, consists of three distinct elements—British troops, native troops with British and native officers, and the armies maintained by the feudatory princes. The British force is small, but undoubtedly consists of the flower of our Army, all immature striplings being carefully weeded out before regiments are allowed to embark. According to the estimate for the ensuing financial year, this force consists of 9 regiments of cavalry, 77 batteries of artillery (10 horse, 40 field, and 27 garrison), and 50 battalions of infantry. The aggregate strength, including 436 officers and three sergeants of the Royal Engineers—principally employed on civil duties—is 2,847 officers, and 59,110 non-commissioned officers and men; total 61,597. About two-thirds of the force is stationed in the Bengal Presidency, the remainder being divided between Madras and Bombay, with a slight preponderance in favour of the former.

Each regiment of Native Infantry has seven British combatant officers and one surgeon, eight subadars (native captains), eight jamadars (native lieutenants) and musters about 700 bayonets. A native cavalry regiment has one additional British officer, usually thirteen native officers, and 500 men. Native officers are subordinate to British, live apart, and are as a rule of the same class as the privates. The majority are promoted from the ranks, but to elevate the tone the principle of direct appointment of educated natives has been introduced on a small scale. The duties of the adminstrative branches are carried out locally, affording employment to a large number of Staff Corps officers and warrant officers drawn from British regiments serving in India. Roughly speaking, the native army consists of 120,000 officers and men, and at present is thus distributed:—

	Cavalry.	Artillery.	Sapa. & Miners.	Infantry.
Bengal....	27 Regts	9 Bats.	10 Companies.	67 Regts.
Madras ..	4 ,,	— ,,	10 ,,	63 ,,
Bombay ..	6 ,,	2 ,,	5 ,,	26 ,,
Total ..	37	11	25	125

In addition to the forces shown in the table, there is a small detachment of the Governor-General's bodyguard in each Presidency, and a few unimportant local corps; the Corps of Guides, and four local regiments which comprise both infantry and cavalry, nave, for convenience, been included with the Bengal infantry. The Punjaub Frontier Force (comprising one Goorkha regiment of infantry, four Punjaub cavalry regiments, the Corps of Guides, five batteries of artillery, four regiments of Sikh, and five of Punjaub infantry) and the Hyderabad contingent (four cavalry regiments, four batteries of artillery, and six infantry regiments) form part of the Bengal army. The greatest concentration of troops takes place in the Punjaub, where even in profound peace a force of 25,000 or 30,000 is always maintained in high efficiency. The admirable nature of this arrangement is evident from the comparative ease with which a force of 60,000 men has just been got together at very short notice in the North-west frontier districts.

We now come to the armies of the feudatory States. Before considering the numerical strength of this important factor of the armed forces of India, it is advisable to draw attention to the fact that no later than last year the *Times* devoted a series of long articles to these armies, pointing out that in their discipline and efficiency they almost rival European troops. The writer's cue was to advocate their suppression on the ground that they constitute a formidable danger, but in the interests of the Empire it is most fortunate that the Government of India did not fall in with this pessimistic view. The native princes have, one and all, expressed their readiness to place their troops at our disposal, and on the 26th ult. the Maharajahs Scindiah and Holkar formally made the offer to Lord Dufferin. Accepting the *Times*' estimate of their high military efficiency and numbers, we find that the armies of the feudatory princes form an auxiliary force by no means to be despised. Without entering into detail, the totals are:—Mahratta States, 59,600 men, 116 guns; Hindu States, 188,475 men, 3,096 guns; Cashmere, 27,000 men, 160 guns; Mohammedan States, 74,660 men, 865 guns; total, 349,835 men, with an artillery composed of 4,237 guns. These armies are, it must be granted, considerably above the effective allowed by treaty with the British Empire, but we are not inclined to cavil at that just now.

Thus the total number of fighting men in India is 530,000, including 60,000 British troops, 120,000 natives under British officers, and 350,000 native auxiliaries.

REMINISCENCES OF GORDON AT GRAVESEND.

Mr. Arnold White writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

The five great forts that form the first and second line of the Thames defences are mainly the result of Gordon's work at Gravesend from 1865 to 1871. Except in the Crimean trenches, as a lad of twenty-two, at no other period of his life was he exclusively concerned in work for his own country. But this period, unless I am mistaken, will be that on which the thoughts of future generations will most love to linger, not because his industry and military genius assisted in providing effectual safeguards for London, but because he taught us in his leisure moments the right way to approach the poor man and the poor boy, and to arouse in them feelings of devotion and love which enable them to resist the temptations common to their class, and thus effectually to help themselves.

The modest quarters in which Gordon lived during those six years stand in the centre of one of the forts. Clinker-built and russet-tiled, the outside of the cottage appears more humble than it really is. Entering through a little passage and leaving the dining-room on the right, the drawing or sitting-room gives an outlook to a spacious lawn, with one spreading chesnut tree—now gaunt and grey in the March wind—backed by the earthworks and bastions of the fort. A fireplace faces the bow window, and over the chimney-piece Gordon placed his map of the world, with his little flags to mark the progress of his "kings" in their wanderings by land and sea. This room was used by Gordon in his leisure moments; and in it many and many a poor fellow from the gutter and the shrimp-boat first found help and hope. Upstairs is Gordon's bedroom, with a fine view of the Sheerness bend in the Thames, of the four forts, and of the busy steamers trafficking up and down the stream. Adjacent is the boys' room, where Gordon's "kings" were accomodated wholesale, so near to the "Kernel's" own chamber that any uproar could quickly be checked. Outside, the garden beds, box-edged and old-fashioned, are quite unchanged. On summer days this garden was in Gordon's time the resort of the old and the halt.

Fourteen years have passed away since Gordon left Gravesend. He has, however, contrived to leave behind him, especially among the poor, so passionate a clinging to his memory that his loss is to them a reality and a sorrow that cannot be observed without sharing in their pain. Hothouse grapes of the best, carried nightly to the bedside of a fevered and improvident waterman, were placed one by one in the parched mouth of the sick man. A man whose intelligence made him fretful on a sick bed, where he was condemned to irksome idleness of mind, found, by Gordon's thought, a newspaper delivered every morning at the door. Some irregularity occurring in the delivery of the paper, Gordon delegated the office to no one, himself saw to the establishment of a punctual supply, and did not quit his object until the sick man received his welcome newspaper with regularity.

In so deep a mine of memories every lode cannot be worked, but there were some instances of the singular attachment aroused by Gordon's life that must not be omitted. An old woman whose sons had long since been helped by Gordon and who had of late fallen on evil days, heard that Gordon was dead, and conceived the idea—for it is not easy to see how she could have gained it from outside—that Gordon's body was coming to London for interment. Although in sore straits, and with no capital but some dilapidated nets, this woman was actually negotiating for the sale of those nets to provide the funds to go to London and throw herself for the last time upon the remains of the man she loved so well. "For," she said, "I do not care if I starve the day after."

Another old man, in horn barnacles, half blind, with a keen memory, and obvious sincerity—for he could not read the newspapers, and he had no one now to read them for him—spoke of Gordon's goodness to the wife now dead. Doctors ordered, as doctors will, delicacies beyond the old man's means. Wine and soup were as much out of his reach as a trip to Madeira. Gordon heard of this, and the delicacies and wine were brought twice a day by his own hand; and when the cares of Coal-house Fort or other of the iron-shielded Thames defences detained him, he would always send the soup or the wine. When the old woman grew better Gordon would sit by her bedside and read the Scriptures, and the old husband says she listened gladly. The Fort-house garden and its box-edged walks were made free to the woman and her husband, and for a few years she hobbled in on sunny days, and took her ease on the lawn and among the old-fashioned flowers. She and her benefactor are both gone to their long homes now; and the only spectator of the facts I relate is an old man, who cannot be long in following after them.

Sometimes Gordon would be deceived. His good heart laid him open to unscrupulous practices. Children would be sent shoeless into the streets to waylay the Colonel. Clothes would be torn to simulate the rags of misery. The curious part of these devices is in the sequel. The perpetrators, though they succeeded in "doing" the Colonel in the first instance, were broken down in their efforts by the sheer power of affection the man inspired. My informant said: "Them as swindled him was the most sorry, 'specially when the news came of his death."

I encountered one old man who had been a sergeant in the Crimea, and who had had one transaction with Gordon at that early date. The sergeant had saved and wished to remit £7 to his wife, and applied to Gordon to send it home. Gordon sent it home, and without saying anything about it added £3, making £10 in all. A year passed, when the sergeant returned home, and found that Gordon, surmising that the wife was not too well off, had silently supplemented from his own scanty pay the sergeant's remittance.

Gordon believed in outdoor relief. His pensioners were not a few. Sometimes he would pay a poor and deserving woman to look after a superannuated man, and if the woman acquitted herself well of her task—and he was strict in requiring good work—he would take her under his own care. There is at least one such case in Gravesend now—the case of an elderly woman, whose care of one of Gordon's pensioners had drawn from the Colonel a promise of help "when he came back from Khartoum." This promise must now be redeemed by others, and it is an honour to share in it.

Perhaps the spot most directly connected with the story of Gordon's Gravesend life is the dingy corner of the ragged school, with the tall window looking on to the unlovely red tiles and the grey bricks and mortar of the soup-kitchen. Here in this corner every Sunday he was regularly to be found with his class of sixteen boys, upon whom he shed the light of his singular nature. Those boys were "rough 'uns" when they were first caught, but they soon sobered down, and in every known case became personally indebted to Gordon for a changed life. The Colonel would never take the chair except on one occasion, when 300 of the parents of the boys were entertained at a tea meeting. He carried self-effacement into the smallest details of life. Some of the poorer of those lads he would have to the Fort-house, where he would feed and lodge them. Three or four of them had scarlet fever at his house, and the Colonel would sit with them far into the night, talking to them and soothing them until they fell asleep. "He entered," says Mr. Penman, "into all their concerns, caring nothing for himself. He cared only to make them happy and industrious, while his chief aim was to lead them to the Saviour."

The Rev. W. Guest says that the Colonel would enter homes infected with contagion and fever when others hesitated to go. He would often go to the workhouse, and walk with the old men in the yard without a shadow of assumption. He was wont not only to give tobacco to the old fellows, and tea to the crones, but kept up his gifts after he left Gravesend. With him out of sight was not out of mind. He would write to a washerwoman and send her his photograph with a great deal more suavity of manner than that he has displayed to the Prime Minister of England.

OSMAN DIGNA.

Some account of the leader of the Hadendowas, who has engaged the British forces near Souakim, will not be without interest to our readers. The following is condensed from the *Daily News*:—

Osman Ali, or, as he is sometimes called, Abubekr Digna, the Mahdi's Emir, or lieutenant, in the Eastern Soudan, is the grandson of a Turkish merchant and slave-dealer who settled at Souakim some time in the beginning of the century. Ahmed Aga el Digna, as the Turk was named, married a woman of the Hadendowa tribe, a semi-nomad people whose headquarters are at Fillik, not far from Kassala. In accordance with the tribal custom, the children born of this marriage assumed their mother's nationality, and Ahmed Aga's eldest son, Abubekr, the present Emir's father, was regarded as a Hadendowa pure and simple. Abubekr bequeathed to his two sons, Osman and Ahmed, a thriving trade in European cottons and cutlery, as also in "hubba soda"—"black ivory grain"—the slang term which the *djellabs*, or slave-dealers, apply to their human chattels. When Osman and his brother Ahmed succeeded to their father's business the house of Digna reached the height of its prosperity. The Souakim branch of the business was managed by Ahmed. His brother Osman, of a more restless and adventurous disposition, was travelling partner, and he travelled far and wide, for the Dignas had agencies at Jeddah, Kassala, Berber, Khartoum, Sennaar, El Obeid, and even at remote Darfur. In exchange for European goods, the Souakim house received from these localities ostrich feathers, gums, ivory, pepper, skins, and other Central African produce, besides black slaves, some of whom were sold at the various places at which the Dignawah caravans called on their slow march to the coast, while others were shipped on board the firm's dhows for the trip to Jeddah, where there was always a market for them. His long journeys over the Soudan were useful to Osman Digna in a sense which he did not realise when he began them. They enabled him to become acquainted with the leaders of the anti-Egyptian movement which, though not culminating in rebellion until the year 1881-2, was distinctly recognisable at least as early as 1869-70.

About the year 1870, the prosperity of the Digna family began to decline, and in seven years it fell. Osman Digna and Company sustained serious losses in the capture, by a British cruiser, of one or two cargoes of slaves on their way to Jeddah from a creek near Souakim. The vigilance of the English officials necessitated great precaution in the conveyance of slaves to the coast, and in embarking them for Arabia. Souakim being too closely watched, the caravan leaders used to avoid the seaport, and by unfrequented paths to deposit their captives by twos and threes at some unfrequented spot on the shore, whence they might be run across the Red Sea when opportunity offered. Then came the Anglo-Egyptian Slave Convention, which completed the alarm and disgust of the *djellabs*, and of all who were more or less directly interested in the maintenance of a traffic which they held to be permitted by Divine law. It was then that Osman Digna, reduced to despair by the commercial ruin of his house, formed his first schemes of rebellion.

The spot were this occurred is the prettiest in the neighbourhood of Souakim. It is close to a splendid sycamore tree, which overspreads the principal well from which Souakim is supplied, and over which, in the rainy season, it seems to float like a Brobdignagian green bouquet. To this spot, about a mile from the town, Osman Digna, one day, seven or eight years ago, invited some of his intimate friends to a secret conference. They met, and Osman harangued them in a pretty violent speech. The story is that he denounced the alliance of a Mahommedan Power, such as Egypt was, with the Frankish nations; that he predicted the commercial ruin of the Soudan as a consequence of the prohibition of the slave traffic; and that he proposed the disarmament that very night of the weak Egyptian garrison, and the proclamation of Arab independence; and that he then produced a Koran upon which he urged his hearers to swear fellowship with him in his revolutionary enterprise. "The Hadendowas, the Amararas, the Beni Amers, all the tribes" of the Southern Soudan, said Osman Digna, "will support us." As the local garrison consisted chiefly of a few harmless policemen and decrepit warriors with rusty arms and ragged clothes, it might perhaps have been overthrown without much exertion; and in a few years afterwards the Soudani tribes did join Osman. But on this occasion Osman's friends stared and smiled at him. They clearly showed that they thought him a "magnoon"—ape, fool, ass, as the word may be freely and variously translated. According to one account of this singular interview, one of the audience remarked that it would be wiser to petition Ismail Pasha. "Ismail!" screamed Osman, "Ismail is a Frank; he is a traitor to his religion; he has agreed with the Christians to destroy the customs of Islam, and the Christians themselves wish to liberate our slaves in order that they themselves may possess them." Osman could make nothing of them; in a fit of anger he told them they deserved whatever hard fate the Christians might bring upon them, and cursing them roundly for their want of spirit and of fidelity to their country and their religion, he turned away and set out for the Erkowit hills, the high ridges of which, thirty miles off, are seen from Souakim.

During the next six years Osman appears to have been engaged in travelling about the Soudan, extending his visits to Khartoum and beyond it. It would appear that he was somewhere in the Central Soudan when, in the summer of 1881, Mahomet Achmet, from his retreat in the little island of Abba in the White Nile, proclaimed himself to be the true Mahdi. However that may have been, he lost no time, when once the Mahdi's insurrection was fairly started, in throwing in his lot with the new Prophet. By his capture of El Obeid, in 1883, the Mahdi gained an influence and a holy reputation which were increased only by two subsequent feats, the destruction of Hicks Pasha's force, and the capture of Khartoum. In the spring of 1883 Osman Digna, with his head full of grand schemes, reached El Obeid, where he paid his tribute of reverence to God's Prophet, and offered to serve the new cause in the Red Sea territories. Osman's offer was accepted. He left Obeid with the title of "Emir" of the Dervish of God, and with letters which he was to distribute to the tribal Sheikhs, and in which they were ordered to acknowledge Osman's authority. He was joined by his brother Ahmed from Souakim, who, before starting for the interior, sold all the Digna property in the place. Ahmed held high rank under his brother Osman. But a much more influential ally than Ahmed was the Sheikh Mahomed Tahir, originally of Damer, a small town and district near Berber. The accession of Sheikh Tahir indicates another of the very numerous and complex motives of the Soudan insurrection. The slave chiefs were principally impelled by resentment at interference with their inhuman calling, and the slave traders have been the prime movers of the insurrection; they were the first to support the Mahdi, and they are still the backbone of his following. Others joined in the insurrection, partly from genuine religious motives, partly from dynastic reasons—both which were combined in Sheikh Tahir. In the eyes of the people the dispossessed Sheikh Tahir embodied their country's ancient cause, and his influence was strengthened still more by his reputation for sanctity. Whenever he went abroad Sheikh Tahir was surrounded by crowds struggling for the honour of kissing his hands, feet, or raiment. Pious as Sheikh Tahir was he had taste and aptitude for worldly avocations; and he had even slave-dealing transactions with the far-travelled Osman Digna. Here, then, was a man who, in addition to his great popularity and far-spread reputation for piety, inherited an obligation of revenge. He and Osman were friends. They had a common grievance. Their opportunity had come, and they seized it. Or rather, Osman had seized it already; for he had been invested with his Emirship at El Obeid, by the Dervish of God. So all that Osman had to do on his return journey from Obeid was to take the holy Sheikh Tahir with him into the Hadendowa country. In the month of August, 1883, Osman Digna, with his friend Sheikh Tahir, appeared in the Erkowit hills, and in the Mahdi's name issued his proclamations and warnings to the tribal Sheikhs and the officials of the Egyptian Government. Just at the time—November 4 or 5, 1883—when General Hicks's army was perishing of thirst, and under the spears and fire of the Arabs at Kashgil, Osman Digna's band was slaughtering the Egyptian troops near the black glistening rock not far from Tamai, which Mr. F. Scudamore, one of the correspondents with General Graham's army last year, appropriately named after the Egyptian leader, Mount Kassim.

ART EXHIBITIONS.

As the opening of the Academy approaches the private exhibitions slacken off; and those which we have now to chronicle are, fortunately for a somewhat wearied public, almost the last of their kind. One of them, however, is so good (says the *Times*) that it will certainly hold its own even among the multitude of shows from which London is now suffering. This is the Thirty-Second Annual Exhibition of Pictures by Artists of the Continental Schools, which opened yesterday in the French Gallery, Pall-mall. Frequenters of these rooms know well that there is little that is French about the gallery but its name; for Messrs. Wallis have for many years almost deserted Paris and gone for their supplies to Munich, to Vienna, and still further east. The only French work that calls for notice here is not new, being some pictures by Meissonier, Corot, Daubigny, Diaz, and Gérôme, lent for exhibition. The real strength of the display does not lie here, but in the pictures of Professor Carl Müller, of his young Servian pupil Joanowits, of the very distinguished German painters, Herren Seiler, Holmberg, and Heffner, and of a young Hungarian, a follower of Munkaczy, Imré Révész. The largest picture in the room is from the hand of this painter, who is quite new to English eyes—except to those who saw this very canvas in the Paris Salon a year ago. He has painted the Hungarian national song-writer, Petöfi, reading his songs to an excited group of his fellow-villagers at the time of the Hungarian insurrection—a spirited picture, finely composed, and painted with a good deal of force and imagination, if with comparatively little thoroughness. More interesting for its artistic qualities is the careful and highly-finished "Bazaar Street, Cairo" (15) of Professor Müller, who may be regarded as the head of the modern Viennese school, and whom we have often described as the most brilliant painter of Eastern scenes now working. For Gérôme—a fine single figure from whose hand is here (33)—has practically abandoned the East; and then his pictures are not what they were. Professor Müller's colours, especially in his outdoor scenes, are a little too strong and brightly lighted to be quite pleasant; but his defence is that he paints for posterity as well as for the present day, and it is a defence that cannot be gainsaid. It is possible, for example, that posterity may wish that Herr Holmberg had been more careful of the future in painting his beautiful interior, "Far from the World." Admirable as is the tone of this fine picture now, we can well imagine that in 50 years it will be dark and disagreeable. But as it stands it is a masterly picture; the heads of the three ecclesiastics are interesting types, totally free from the vulgarity which infects almost all modern paintings of this class, and the execution, especially in such accessories as the green Persian carpet, it as fine as that of a good Dutch picture of the great age. Joanowits' picture of Bosnian life—"The Song of Scanderbeg," a blind minstrel playing to a group of peasants—which hangs close by, is not precisely an advance on the work which astonished us a year ago, but it shows no decline. The characterisation is strong, and the painting (see for example, the red shawl of the man on the right) is extremely fine. Herr Seiler has surpassed himself in his "Painter and his Patrons" (55), and in the almost equally brilliant "Flaw in the Deed" (49), both of them works which will compare very favourable with the celebrated little "Stirrup Cup" of Meissonier, dated 1865, which hangs on the other wall. Nothing better in its minute and yet forcible way has ever been done than the blue satin coat of the old gentleman who is examining the deed.

Herr Heffner is not so overwhelming in this exhibition as he was in the winter, but he has sent two large pictures of great beauty and refinement, and a number of small studies, among which "Calais Dunes" (75) stands out as exceedingly true and vivid. Two pupils of Müller's, Herren Ottenfeld and Poetzelberger, are represented by small pictures (18 and 23) which show most careful training and considerable original force. Müller's sister sends a head almost as good as one of his own, and he himself a fine laughing face of an Arab boy. The Pole Skutetzky has a Venetian picture in De Blaas's manner (37), and De Blaas himself has two or three—one, a girl gathering roses (112), being too pretty by half, and one, "In his Element" (89), a spirited and humorous picture of a boy cutting a lemon. On the other hand, one genuinely bad picture has a place of honour—an anti-vivisectionist manifesto by the over-rated Austrian painter, Gabriel Max (88). A novel with a purpose is bad; a picture with a purpose is worse—especially if it is as foolish, as ill-drawn, and as commonplace as this one.

At Mr. M'Lean's gallery in the Haymarket, where an exhibition also opened on Monday, there is not so much that is noticeable. The strength of the display lies in a child-picture by Mr. Millais, one of Josef Israels' pathetic scenes of peasant mourning, and a sunny riverside landscape by Mr. Vicat Cole. For the rest, there is a fair collection of the works of clever foreign artists, such as MM. Vinea, Andreotti, and Jacquet, and a pair of beautiful heads by Mr. Albert Moore. Mr. Millais's "Perfect Bliss" is a child sitting in the garden eating strawberries and gazing entranced upon a pair of brimstone butterflies. It will hardly rank with "Little Miss Muffet" and "Pomona," but it is a captivating picture, none the less.

THE BLENHEIM PICTURES.

The two pictures from Blenheim have now been put up in the National Gallery; so that all who wish, like Mr. Biggar, to see whether the "articles" for which we have given £87,500 are worth the money can do so. With the general public the Vandyck is sure to be the favourite. In the first place it is very large, larger than anything else in the collection. It is 15ft. high and about 13ft. wide; allowing for its distance from the picture-plane, the horse and its rider are life-size. The subject too is simple enough for the meanest understanding. King Charles rides on a dun horse of that Frisian breed which, to an English eye, seems abnormally small in the head and heavy in the crest. The King, in full armour, sits up as a king should, his right hand resting on a bâton and his long sword swinging across his horse's flank. Behind him walks an equerry with his helmet. The landscape background is, perhaps, the finest Vandyck ever painted. Among the drawings in the British Museum there is one that may well be a study for it. Behind the King and over his attendant's head rises a clump of finely painted trees—trees which for breadth and colour might almost be compared to those of Titian; while the right of the picture is filled with a wooded lanscape, seen in low and distant perspective, over which hangs a splendidly warm and luminous sky. This portrait says the *St. James's Gazette*, is to be preferred to the more famous one at Windsor for the greater simplicity of the conception and for an almost Venetian warmth and harmony of colour that are wanting to most of the things Vandyck painted in this country. It seems to have excited the strong admiration of Gainsborough, who must be considered a good judge of the Flemish master's beauties, for he made the small copy to be seen in the exhibition at the Grosvenor. Now that the picture has become the property of the nation, one may hope to see it successfully engraved or etched, which it never has been yet.

The "Ansidei Madonna" was ordered by the family of that name for the Chapel of St. Nicholas of Bari in the Church of San Fiorenzo, at Perugia, where a copy still marks the spot on which it hung. It was bought by Lord Robert Spencer, through Gavin Hamilton, in 1764; the price paid never transpired, for the picture was a present from Lord Robert to his brother, the fourth Duke of Marlborough. It is painted on a very thick panel of white poplar, 9ft. high and 5ft. wide. The subject is what used to be known in Italy as a "Holy Conversation;" and in the whole *œuvre* of Raphael there are but two other pictures which can be compared to it in arrangement. One of these is the "Ripalda Raphael," which has been in what Mr. Ruskin calls the "cellars" of the National Gallery for the last twelve years or more; the trustees declining to discuss its purchase at the price—said to be £40,000—asked by the late Duke of Ripalda. The third example of the kind is the not very satisfactory Madonna del Baldacchino in the Pitti Palace. On our panel there are but four figures—the Virgin, the Child, St. John the Baptist, and St. Nicholas; and the whole composition is more *serré*, more coherent and decided in its unity, than in either of the other two. But the chief glory of the piece lies in its union of the simple religious intensity of Raphael's early years with the technical power that came to him at the end of his pupilage with Perugino. The date upon it has been read sometimes as MDV., sometimes as MDVII.; it is difficult to say which was meant, as the two strokes after the V are carelessly put in, and may easily have been intended to form part of the embroidered ornament in which the date appears. From internal evidence it is likely, however, that the work was begun in 1503 and finished in 1507, about the same time as Perugino was painting the splendid altarpiece for the Certosa which now hangs but a few feet from the great work of his pupil. In the Ansidei Madonna Raphael's colour is at its best. He was not a real colourist. It was only under the strong stimulus of Perugino's example, and the example of some of the Florentines with whose work he made acquaintance about the time this picture was begun, that he ever tried to get real warmth, glow, and transparency into his colour at all. When left to himself he quickly began to go down the slope that led to the cold harshness of the "St. Cecilia" and of his last work of all. In our Madonna the choice of tint is exactly such as Perugino himself would have made. In the management of the architectural setting, however, there is a touch of genius beyond the Umbrian master, but very characteristic of him who was to paint the arcades of the school of Athens. The semi-circular arch under which the figures stand is no dark frame to them; it is a graceful vault, against which the light is reflected with such truth and force that an air of unique reality is imparted to the whole conception. In the matter of condition this Raphael is equal if not superior to any other. On the whole of its surface there is scarcely a point at which a retouch can be suspected. The gloved hands of St. Nicholas, especially the right one, are poor; but close examination reveals no sign of their having been tampered with. There are one or two "pentimenti," or visible alterations by the artist; the clearest and most interesting being a correction of the contour of St. John's left arm from the meagreness of Perugino to the fuller forms affected by Raphael in his independent years. Until now this Ansidei Madonna has held a lower place than several others of vastly inferior merit—mainly, no doubt, on account of its banishment at Blenheim, a palace more famous than visited. Now that it has found a home in the most accessible gallery in the world we may hope that its great qualities—its depth and purity of sentiment, its fine colour, its perfect condition—may give it the place it deserves amongst the works of Raphael.

Some interesting discoveries have just been made at the Tol-House, Great Yarmouth, so well known to antiquaries from its equally curious history, having been not only the usual place of assembly in the town, although not a townhall, but the common prison as well. The fabric dates from the early part of the thirteenth century, and has an external staircase leading to an open porch on the first floor, from which election and other addresses were delivered. The building was doomed to destruction not long since, but by a vigorous effort made by some of the townsmen and others, the decree was reversed, and the structure handed over to trustees to be devoted to some useful purpose. During the stripping of the roughcast and cement which have covered the old walls for many years, a fine series of small moulded arches has been found below the windows of the open porch. These rest on corbels, and are of much beauty. Below these the Gothic arch which formerly gave light and air to the common hold, or prison, has also been found. All will be carefully repaired. The form of the old windows of the hall has also been recovered. The fine timber roof of the hall has been repaired and opened to view, and it is now proposed to fill the windows with heraldic glass containing the arms of the principal among the old local families.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

THE ROOKS BEGIN TO BUILD.

My morning walk is under the rookery, when the green buds are still in danger of being strangled in a scarf of rime. The air is not then alive with cawing busybodies; but I am not such a coxcomb as to think that I have caught them sleeping. I meet them in straggling parties in the open, taking a turn before breakfast, and poking their beaks among grassy tufts by the ditch side in quest of dew-worms. In the proverb about the advantages of getting up in the morning the rook is the "early bird," and the dew-worm is the worm that is particularly alluded to.

In these frosty mornings, the rook has rather an anxious time of it. As a matter of taste he prefers the succulent grub to the sweetest seed that was ever sown; but when a hard crust of earth forms between him and his breakfast he willingly becomes a vegetarian. Starvation drives him into the streets; where, with his heart in his mouth, he flutters into a granary, and is off with a whole seed before the deftest hand can fling anything at him. He fusses so much over his depredations and looks so wicked in his suit of rusty black, that he is generally esteemed the most impudent of thieves. Yet one sparrow dodging from street to street has more impudence than a whole rookery. Except among themselves theft is a rarity with rooks: sparrows have nothing else to live for. The rook makes a bolt of it, with his mouth full, knowing his own wickedness, and uneasy as to his reception at the rookery; but no man ever saw the most theftuous sparrow ashamed of himself.

The rook that has contrived to get a breakfast takes a rosy view of life. Circling round the tree-tops and cawing as he flies, he reminds one of the gentleman in the "Canterbury Tales," who was certainly busy but nevertheless "seemed busier than he was." I know no other bird, familiar to the inhabitants of towns, with so complete an indifference to the affairs of man. Rooks build in the proximity of houses because they know man is helpful in supplying food; but as for his toiling and spinning, it is nothing to them. From the highest tree-tops they see him crawling along the shabby earth, but unless he should happen to have a gun they take no notice of the wingless creature. The object of their life at present is to get that beautiful twig out of their neighbour's nest. Certainly it is a fine stick; but what a watchful eye its owner has! To sit solemnly blinking at another's nest is too suspicious, so Mr. Rook and his wife go off on a caw together. Nothing could look more innocent; but still they have that twig in their eye. Their circles become smaller, and they are a little hurt to find the proud owner still sitting on his stick. Between friends there should be no suspicions. The couple separate. Mrs. Rook drops down on her neighbour to gossip, and innocently kicks the twig overboard. It is fluttering to the earth, when the other conspirator pounces on it, under the impression that it is no one's property, and carries it off to his own nest. This kind of thing is to be seen any day, and when you have watched the comedy so far I advise you to go away. For now a deafening din commences. "Hullo, what is up now?" cry a hundred rooks rushing to the despoiled nest; and, as they have a keen sense of justice, woe to the guilty bird who cannot boast of the glamour of his eloquence. And yet never was there an orchestra that made poets like the music of the rookery. A grassy mound at the foot of a tall elm, with loud-cawing rooks whirling round the tree-tops, is a front seat in Nature's Academy.

"Caw-caw" is not the cry of the rooks. They spend the greater part of their lives trying to say it, but they never quite manage it. Some of them think they do, but the others undeceive them. The fact is that there never yet was a rook who could master the *c* sound. "Aw-aw," or perhaps "awr-awr"—for there is an echo of an *r* in it, especially with the metropolitan rooks—is their nearest approach to "caw." The other morning, when the sun was hurrying in the summer over the spring's head, I watched two lofty rooks rehearsing by themselves. They were on the same branch. "Look here," said the one; "I flatter myself I have got it at last; pay particular attention to the *c* sound—Aw-aw." "Can't say I catch it," said the other; "you should bring it out more like this—Awr-awr." Then the first rook hopped near the other and, rising to his tip-toes, exclaimed, "By no means—observe," and then croaked "Aw-aw" triumphantly down the other's throat. Each needed a deal of convincing.

I should like to feel sure that I shall never encounter a second rook suffering from a severe cold. My walk the other morning extended to the river; and there I fell in with a male bird far gone in a decline, hopping about from stone to stone. A hoarse rook would make the blood of a whole rookery run cold; and this one had evidently been ostracised. He now grubbed for himself within sound of his old home. It is not unusual for rooks to gad about the banks of rivers in the hope of lighting upon stranded worms or insects; and this poor creature had perhaps got his feet damp in the puddles. He was a forlorn bird, apparently without much hope of regaining his voice. Now and then force of habit drew an attempted caw from him. "Croak-croak," he wheezed forth, and then shivered at the sound of his own voice. I expect, however, to see him again consoling himself with grubs. He is too genuine an invalid not to have a fine appetite.

Just now we have an opportunity of watching the houses of the rooks building or undergoing repairs. A cruel blast of wind made sad havoc of the rookery last spring, blowing the bottoms out of half of the nests and carrying the sticks to every corner of the county. The green sward beneath was dismal to contemplate next morning; though foolish farmers, who will not acknowledge their best friends, bore the sight with equanimity. The earth ran with the white and yellow of eggs, carrying the delicate green shells down the stream; and every minute bits of nests, giving way after a brave resistance, flapped to the ground. The rooks were in a sad way, and hovered about the trees commiserating with each other and filling the wood with their wailing. This year they are as gay as ever. If the appearance of the rookery a fortnight ago recalled last year's disaster, it has only been to make them nicer about the foundations of their nests.

It is amusing to watch these birds struggling with twigs twice the length of themselves. I have seen them turned topsy-turvy by the unwonted weight; but dire must be their predicament before they will leave go their hold. The stick has to be steered with caution. In the first place, it is well to guard it from envious eyes until it is woven into the nest, when you can brag about it as much as you like; and then, again, it has a heart-breaking way of sticking among the branches that bar the way to the nest. At our rookery you may almost any day see some one of its builders squatting on a branch with a love of a twig in his mouth, puzzling out the safest way to the nest. If the stick is very heavy he flits with it from tree to tree, backing between close branches when need be, or trying the effect of a strategic movement sideways. At other times he mounts high and reaches his destination with a rush. One does not require to climb to giddy heights to know that we have no eggs as yet; for the female is at present as noisy and frisky as the male, and eggs would alter all that. Then the expectant father goes out alone to look for his daily bread, and you may see him feeding his wife on his return, like a mother coddling her child.

I write in the evening. Nearly an hour ago the rooks sailed homeward through the sky. I watch for them nightly, and they are never late. They go together, and they return together. But though they are home betimes, they are not always inclined for rest. To-night the din is deafening. There is a row in the rookery. Some impertinent intrusion by an outsider, perhaps, or a dispute about sleeping accommodation.—*St. James's Gazette.*

Mr. Gladstone has undertaken to restore the Cross of Edinburgh as a memorial of his political connection with Midlothian. The Cross was erected in the year 1617 to replace an earlier building of the same description which was removed by the civic authorities in order to widen and otherwise improve the High-street on which it encroached. It consisted of an octagonal tower, 16ft. in diameter and about the same in height. That which gave it character, however, was the tall, slender shaft, surmounted with the Royal unicorn, which rose from the platform on the top of the tower, and which formed the original cross. On this platform the heralds and pursuivants assembled to make proclamation of Royal edicts. There, also, criminals were punished by scourging, maiming, and execution. In course of time this cross, like its predecessor, was found to interfere with the street traffic, and it was ordered to be demolished in 1756. The carved stones taken from it were much prized by antiquaries, and several of them found their way to Abbotsford, where they were built into garden walls and incorporated with fountains. The pillar was unfortunately broken when in course of being lowered to the ground. The fragments of it lay for many years in the private grounds of a mansion near Edinburgh. A few years ago they were put together again, at the expense of Dr. David Laing, and the shaft was reared on a low pedestal within the railings on the north side of St. Giles's Cathedral, where it now stands. The original site of the cross is marked by an octagonal device in the paving of the High-street, and at that spot Royal proclamations are still made, and other ceremonies required by law to be "done at the Cross" are performed. The site of the restored building has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be in the centre of the open space between the east end of St. Giles's and the police buildings. That site would be most appropriate because of its proximity to the former position of the Cross. It would also serve to show its proportions well, and its presence there would not in any degree interfere with public convenience. Mr. Gladstone's gift will be highly prized by the citizens, and will fitly perpetuate his name in connection with the city and the county. It may be noted that the tower which it is proposed to restore is not that described in the fifth canto of *Marmion*, though it also, according to Scott, was "a turret octagon," but is the more recent structure built in 1617. The "pillar'd stone," however, which is really the City Cross, is of very old date, and belonged to the original structure.

An interesting picture now on view at the National Portrait Gallery represents the House of Commons in the early part of the eighteenth century. It exhibits Speaker Onslow in the chair, and Sir Robert Walpole standing at his side as if about to address the House. Five rows of benches filled with members of the most varied character face the Speaker, and quite in front are two chief clerks seated at the table. The picture appears to have been begun by Sir James Thornhill, then a member of the House, for Speaker Onslow, and to have been completed, in all but the four principal figures, by Hogarth. A note in Dallaway and Wornum's edition of Walpole's *Anecdotes*, p. 665, mentions this picture as the only instance of Hogarth's work in combination with Thornhill's, adding, erroneously, that the original is at Wimpole, the seat of the Earl of Hardwicke. But in reality the genuine picture belongs to Lord Onslow, and has never been out of his possession. Lord Hardwicke's is a copy which was taken by Lord Onslow's permission, in pursuance of a letter of Lord Hardwicke's dated August 20th, 1784, and still extant at Clandon House. A comparison of the two paintings at once shows what a vast difference there is between them. Lord Onslow's picture has never before been exhibited in London, and is peculiarly valuable on account of the freedom with which the heads of the members in the background are painted. The variety of expression and different modes of listening are such as none but Hogarth could have rendered. The larger heads of Walpole, Onslow, and Stables, the chief clerk, are painted with smooth shadows as if of marble. These are undoubtedly by Thornhill. The profile of Sir Robert Walpole—stated on an explanatory paper in the Speaker's own handwriting to be 'a very exact resemblance of him'—is a very remarkable piece of physiognomy. The figure of Sir James Thornhill, assuredly the work of his son-in-law, is in a characteristic attitude, looking hard at the Speaker, with hands raised, but note-book hidden behind a neighbouring sitter, as if sketching him. The date on the picture is 1730, the same year in which Hogarth ran away with his daughter.

M. Vambéry, the Hungarian traveller, has been invited by the Scottish Geographical Society to lecture at Edinburgh. It is now regarded as certain that he will visit England some time in the ensuing autumn, and deliver lectures in different parts of the kingdom.

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JOHN BULL.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The Russian answer has arrived, and though its terms are not known, it is said to be couched in a conciliatory tone, and there is a very general impression that war has, for the present, been averted. This would be very satisfactory were there not an equally general impression that the conciliatory tone is not accompanied by any real concession, and that the struggle between England and Russia for the supremacy in Asia is only postponed to a season more convenient for the war party at St. Petersburg. The members of that party did not realise what a loss they sustained in the return of Lord RIPON to England, and there can be little doubt that it is to the steadfast attitude and energetic preparations of his successor that we are greatly indebted for the postponement of the actual outbreak of hostilities. But at the same time it is to be hoped that the Government at home will not be deluded by the mere adoption of a conciliatory tone, and that they will insist on its being accompanied by conciliatory acts. A simple polite expression of regret for past encroachments, and a solemn promise to abstain from future encroachments, will not be enough. Regret for the violation of former pledges is but a poor guarantee for the observance of new pledges while the ill-gotten gains of that violation are still retained. Despite the persistent efforts of the *Pall Mall Gazette* to make out that Russia is within her rights in seizing terrritory which is admitted by her to be the actual subject of the Boundary Commission's labours, there is a general feeling throughout the country that we have been deceived often enough by Russian promises, and that to acquiesce once again, as we have so often acquiesced before, in their violation is only to invite further aggression. The zeal and energy with which our contemporary has thrown itself into the Russian cause are rather overdone if its articles are to be regarded as uninspired, and it cannot be matter of surprise that the substance of them should be generally supposed to be the product of a colder region than that of Northumberland-street.

The interview at Rawul Pindi between the GOVERNOR-GENERAL and the AMEER is invested with special importance by the presence on the Afghan frontier of a common foe. It is unfortunate that the uninterrupted downpour of rain has interfered with the more splendid and stately portions of the ceremonial, but at the visits interchanged between Lord DUFFERIN and ABDUR RAHMAN the more important negotiations for which the ceremonial itself is but the cover have been carried on. We are, indeed, glad that they should have fallen into such able hands as those of the present VICEROY, and we only trust that he has had full powers accorded to him, and that the Home Government will not contrive to wriggle out of any pledges of assistance to the AMEER which they have authorised him to give. The opportunity of placing our relations with the Ruler of Afghanistan on a satisfactory footing ought not to be lost, and he should not be left in any doubt or uncertainty as to which of the two great Powers it is his interest to serve. We may hope that he is not a careful student of English politics, and that the danger of his being abandoned by England when next the Radical party feel inclined to raise the cry of "Perish India" will not loom before him like an ill-omened spectre in the very midst of Lord DUFFERIN'S encouraging speeches. It is all very well to impress upon him "CODLIN'S your friend, no, SHORT;" but if he realises that CODLIN will take the earliest opportunity to bolt and leave him to deal as best he can with SHORT, he is likely to chose for himself in a different direction from that which CODLIN would desire.

Lord WOLSELEY left Dongola for Cairo on Monday, and, according to report, is to make his way to Souakim to see for himself what is to be done about smashing OSMAN DIGNA, who seems as little inclined to submit to that operation as the MAHDI himself. Early in the week there were again current the reports so often before spread that OSMAN was deserted, and that his followers were thoroughly cowed; but, though he has cleverly contrived to conceal his troops, it is probably with a view of luring us on, and attenuating the line of communication with Souakim. The presence on the flank of our advancing force of a large mass of Arabs will not, we hope, have been lightly disregarded by our GENERAL. At the time we write the result of his advance on Tamai is not known to us, but it is probable that there will be some severe fighting. The soldiers of the Australian Contingent have arrived in time to take part in it, and the account of their reception by the home troops is very inspiriting. It was a graceful compliment to brigade them with the Guards, and the men of the younger and of the older Britain, standing shoulder to shoulder, ought to be a match for a more formidable foe than that which they are now called upon to face.

We have been so much engrossed of late with our own troubles in the Soudan and in Afghanistan, that we have had no thought to spare for France or her troubles in China. But our attention has been recalled to them by the very bad news which has arrived from the Celestial Empire, revealing to us the critical position in which the French troops are now placed. General NEGRIER has been severely wounded, and his army has been compelled, by the advance of an overwhelming Chinese force, to evacuate Langson, and retire to a position considerably to the south. Even here they are by no means in safety, and an urgent appeal for fresh reinforcements has been forwarded to Paris. General NEGRIER'S successor in his command only expresses, as a matter of hope, and by no means as a matter of confidence, his intention to hold the Red River delta. This is, no doubt, a great military disaster, and will probably go far to convert the mere "measures of reprisal" which France has hitherto taken into a regular war. At all events, we can have little doubt that if China stand firm the Republic will have to put forth its strength in order to come out of the struggle with the Chinese EMPEROR satisfactorily. She has found the Chinese military force to be by no means that *quantité négligéable* which it was pronounced to be by M. FERRY, and that unlucky phrase may take its place in every Dictionary of Historic Sayings side by side with the *cœur léger* of M. EMILE OLLIVIER. We do not for a moment propose to press the analogy so far as to compare the present cry *A Pekin!* in its probable results with the former cry *A Berlin!* but it is obvious that the Republic on the other side of the Channel has got its hands full. If the pending negotiations—the news of which comes so strangely in contrast with the flush of Chinese success—lead to peace, France will be well out of it, and will be able to parody Louis XVIII., and say that "there's only an ex-Premier the more." If however, the rumours of peace are incorrect, no small amount of blood and treasure will have to be expended before President GREVY brings the Chinese authorities to a sense of their audacity in contending against *la grande Nation*.

One result has already followed from the victory of the Celestials over the French invading force. The only Ministry which has succeeded in holding its own for any length of time in Republican France has been overthrown by the defeat of General NEGRIER. A good deal of virtuous indignation has been bestowed upon the fickleness of French popular opinion, which has insisted on following up a military disaster by a political catastrophe. We have been treated with eloquent comparisons between the manner in which these things are managed in France and the manner in which they are managed in England. The attitude of the English Parliament on receiving the news of the fall of Khartoum is contrasted with the attitude of the French Chamber on receiving the news of the evacuation of Lang-son, and the result of the comparison is in favour of English stolidity as opposed to French excitability. We are ourselves by no means sure that the comparison is so favourable to our own country, and the feeling of indignation which led to the overthrow of the FERRY Administration is to our mind more justifiable than the passive acquiescence of Englishmen in the disgrace which has been brought upon them at home and abroad by the Administration of Mr. GLADSTONE.

It should not pass without notice by those who compare the treatment which Mr. GLADSTONE meets from the English Parliament with that which M. FERRY meets from the French Chamber, that both in the case of the English and of the French Ministry a certain amount of manipulation, judicious or otherwise, of unfavourable intelligence is suspected. But while the Chamber of Deputies regards it as an aggravation of M. FERRY'S responsibility for the misfortunes of his military commanders that he has held back, or is at all events supposed to have held back, the worst part of his news, our English House of Commons only receives with cheers and laughter every successful evasion of an unpleasant truth by our Ministry. This is certainly one of the things which they manage better in France, and though it may not be strictly logical to visit on M. FERRY the shortcomings of General NEGRIER, we feel more in sympathy with the illogical majority abroad that thus showed its indignation at the attempt to trick it, than with the servile majority at home which acquiesces so willingly in being tricked. We may, indeed, doubt whether M. FERRY really was in possession of this bad news from General NEGRIER when he read out the previous despatches, and thus secured a majority. Such a risk would have been too great for anyone but Mr. GLADSTONE to adopt. The deception must have been—as it was, if it were a deception—discovered almost immediately, and it is only politicians of "Mr. GLADSTONE'S high "character" who could have stood up against such a discovery. M. FERRY could hardly have ventured to run such a risk, and we honestly believe that Sunday's bad news came upon him not altogether, indeed, by surprise,

but at all events as a confirmation, not of what he already knew, but only of what he already feared.

The 1st of April is, probably, not the day which a superstitious personage would by preference select for his nativity. But when we find that it is Prince Bismarck's birthday, we may regard such a *poisson d'Avril* as a whale among the minnows. We have not by any means enrolled ourselves among the thoroughgoing admirers of the German Chancellor, and have not hesitated from time to time to express our sentiments in regard to the Honest Broker. But, at the same time, it is impossible not to regard with some admiration a statesman who has so persistently set before himself as the one object of his life the promotion of the supremacy of his country among European nations. Selfishness, which we all deprecate as a vice in private life, attains to the dimensions of a virtue when it is national, notindividual, selfishness with which we have to deal. It is little matter of surprise that among all who speak the German tongue the one feeling aroused by the anniversary of last Wednesday should have been a feeling of admiration for the statesman who, through evil report and good report, and without much scruple as to the means employed, set before himself the task of welding his disjointed Fatherland into one harmonious whole, and of making Germany into a great country, even though in the process he reduced, as has been truly said, the individual German into a very little man. The appreciation with which the Man of Blood and Iron is regarded by his countrymen has been well shown by the enthusiasm manifested on the seventieth anniversary of his birthday, and all Germany seems to have united to pour forth at his feet the tribute of their homage and their gratitude. Nor is he, from a German point of view, unworthy of that tribute. It is with a sigh of regret and of envy that an Englishman will compare him with our own Premier. We find when we follow out such a comparison that while Prince Bismarck's unrivalled popularity among his countrymen has been employed by him for the advancement of the interests of his country, Mr. Gladstone's unrivalled popularity among his countrymen has been employed for the advancement of the interests of his own ambition. We cannot, therefore, wonder at the unanimity with which Germany expresses its gratitude to the man who approaches so closely to its ideal hero, or at the diversity of feeling with which England regards its Brummagem Bismarck.

It is a curious coincidence that while Lord Wolseley's fortunate star has grown dim in the Soudan, disturbances should have arisen in the quarter in which it first rose above the horizon. Louis Riel, the leader of the disturbances on the Red River in quelling which Colonel Wolesley won his spurs, has once again raised the standard of revolt. A somewhat too scrupulous attention to legal forms, which he has outgrown in his dealings with Zebehr Pasha, prevented the English commander from seizing and hanging Riel on the spot as he well deserved, and the result of this unlucky scrupulosity has been that the half-breed is able to give us fresh trouble at the present time, when his conqueror has got his hands full in the Soudan. The present rising is very serious, and will cause much anxiety and annoyance to the Dominion authorities. Indeed, there is every prospect that it may lead to a desultory but protracted war, especially if, as is feared, the Indians have made an alliance with the rebels. There are, however, greater facilities for communicating with the disturbed districts than there were when Colonel Wolseley made his adventurous march; and though the reduction of the rebels will probably be an affair of time, there seems no reason to fear that the resources at the disposal of the Dominion authorities will be unequal to the task before them. But it is one of those little wars, in which there is no glory to get by success and there is so much to lose by failure, that are so disquieting to a great nation.

It is much to be regretted that the Cape authorities, having failed themselves in doing what ought to be done in Bechuanaland, should have endeavoured to hinder the good work which Sir Charles Warren has taken in hand. That gallant officer has shown what could be done by a judicious and energetic line of conduct, and all Englishmen who have been able to spare a thought for the state of South Africa have rejoiced in the contrast between his line of conduct and that which has of late been pursued in that corner of our Colonial Empire. It was hoped that he might have been overlooked, and let alone without the interposition of any of those wet blankets which constitute Lord Derby's main stock-in-trade. But this was not to be, and once again the pernicious influence of the Colonial Office has been set in motion to frustrate a vigorous and independent course pursued by those who are best qualified to judge of its expediency. The prestige of England—we have no hesitation in using a word which throws into hysterics the Advanced Liberal, but has a real meaning of its own in less prejudiced ears—has suffered severely from Mr. Gladstone's surrender to the Boers. It will be many a year before it recovers from the blow inflicted upon it when our soldiers were allowed, in the eloquent language of Lord Lytton's poem, to which we have elsewhere called attention, to—

"Lie unavenged upon Majuba Hill."

Despite the difficulties of his position, difficulties intensified a thousandfold by that loss of prestige, Sir Charles was doing his work well when he was thus injudiciously pulled up by the Cape authorities, and the question having been referred to Lord Derby for decision, we fear there can be little doubt on which side the decision is likely to be.

The House of Commons rose on Tuesday night for their holiday—we can hardly say their well-earned holiday, as the record of the present session is not, as far as it has gone, a very satisfactory one. At present the members have only shown their readiness to say ditto to Mr. Gladstone, whatever it may be that Mr. Gladstone has said. The Redistribution Bill has not, as was confidently hoped, passed through the Commons by Easter, though the discussion of it has assumed throughout the aspect of a sham fight. Even through the smoke and noise of that sham fight, we have been able to discern the real character of the sacrifices which the Conservative party have made, and the unreal character of the concessions won from the Liberal party, as interpreted with the elasticity of political conscience which characterises that party. Apart from the Redistribution Bill, which still drags its weary length along through Committee, and the Votes of Censure, in which the weight of argument has been throughout on one side and the weight of voting on the other, there is little, if anything, to chronicle about the Præ-Paschal Session. It went out ingloriously in a shower of questions and evasive answers on Tuesday. Among these we may call special attention to Lord E. Fitzmaurice's replies to the appeals made to him by Mr. Bourke, Mr. Magniac, and Mr. Forster on the subject of the French claim to treat rice as contraband of war. This outrageous pretension was very properly scouted by Lord Granville when first put forward; but, as is too often the case with our Foreign Secretary's most fervent protestations, the effect of it has been much toned down by subsequent explanations in the presence of the French refusal to acquiesce in it. Poor Sir Harry Parkes acted on his first instructions, before Lord Granville shrank back once more, "half afraid e'en at the "noise himself had made," and issued a proclamation which repudiated the French claim. But those unfortunate merchants who relied upon the British Minister's protection will find themselves in a bad way. For it now appears that all Lord Granville meant was that the question whether food was or was not contraband of war would have to be decided by the French Prize Court!

The news of the death of Earl Cairns has caused a shock of surprise and regret throughout the country. Though never a very strong man, and obliged always to take care of himself, he had apparently grown stronger of late years, and his fatal illness advanced with such rapid strides that many of his friends received their first intimation of it in the news of his death. A profound lawyer, an eloquent speaker, and an able political leader, his loss is a severe one to the Conservatives, and it will not be easy to replace him in his special line in the councils of the party. He had the reputation of being over-cautious and disinclined to decided action, which was, perhaps, due to his legal training; but when he had once been brought to take a decided line, the assistance which his vigorous eloquence and his tactical skill lent to the carrying out of it was invaluable. He was one of the first of the Chancellors who completely subordinated the legal to the political duties of the office, and Lincoln's Inn has found it difficult to pardon him for setting an example in this respect which the present holder of the Seals has shown himself but too much inclined to follow, so that the Chancery Courts know their nominal head merely as a rare and infrequent visitor. This separation of the judicial and the political Chancellor is much to be regretted, and for it the late Lord Cairns must mainly be held responsible. It was not, we need hardly add, because he felt himself in any degree out of place in Lincoln's-inn, as some of his predecessors have done, that he made the severance. Had he been content to devote himself to his judicial functions, he would probably have left a name not inferior to any of those on that long muster-roll of famous men who have filled the office before him. As it is, we fear that to many his claim to be remembered as a Judge will be supposed to rest on those unfortunate decisions in the Privy Council which were mainly inspired by him. His religious views were held by many to have influenced, consciously or unconsciously, those decisions, and we have no desire at such a time to revive the controversy which they called forth. But no notice of the Conservative statesman, whose loss we mourn, could omit to notice those religious views which so strongly marked his character. A Protestant of the Protestants, enrolled in something even straiter than the straitest sect of the Evangelicals, he had the courage of his opinions, and never shrank from avowing them, even though their narrowness interfered with his popularity and hampered his success.

The forty-second aquatic contest between the two Universities—the Water Derby, as it is the fashion to call it—took place last Saturday and resulted in a victory for Oxford. We must own to a certain feeling of satisfaction that the factitious excitement which has of late years been aroused by that contest showed on the present occasion obvious signs of diminution. There has been a good deal too much fuss made about it by those who have no reason whatever for exciting themselves, and it had attained almost the proportions of a metropolitan nuisance. No more striking example of the influence of an unreasoning Fashion could be found than the temporary madness which has for some years past divided all London into partisans of the Dark or of the Light Blue. But in the present year there has not been the same colour-epidemic in London shops and in London streets as that with which we have been of late made familiar. The Spring—not Midsummer—madness has reached its height, and the gradual ebb of that madness is no matter of regret to those who have really a right to feel an interest in the result of the contest. We are, of course, bound to observe a judicial impartiality in that respect, and to content ourselves each year with chronicling the mere fact of the success of the dwellers by the Isis or of the dwellers by the Cam, as the case may be. Oxford won the toss, which was, in the present condition of the river, and having regard to the temporary obstruction caused by the preparations for the new bridge, even more of an advantage than usual. But to counterbalance this advantage, one of the Oxford crew in the course of the race dislocated his shoulder, which gave to the spectators who were unaware of the mishap a very unfavourable impression of the style of the victorious eight. Their victory was, despite this mishap, an easy one, and there can be little doubt that in 1885 it was the best crew which won.

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

The Russian reply to Lord Granville's latest despatch, which has opportunely arrived after Parliament has adjourned for the Recess, is said to be couched in most conciliatory language—an announcement which has been received in some quarters as a noteworthy indication of the peaceful disposition of the Czar's advisers. It is important not to forget, however, that "conciliatory" language may have quite a different object from that of securing peace. Pacific assurances are sometimes employed with the object of gaining time for the completion of military operations. And there can be no doubt that, in the present case, time is everything for Russia. The railway in process of construction to Serakhs is not yet finished. The frost, too, which closes the harbours of the Baltic, has not yet broken up. And then it might be necessary to bring up strong reinforcements for the army on the Afghan frontier before hostile operations could be actually begun. We are not questioning the pacific intentions of Russia. All we say is that pacific language is worth just nothing at all as a proof of pacific intentions. It does not even prove so much as that a Russian advance will not be made upon Herat as soon as the necessary preparations are complete—say in a few weeks' time. And if peaceful assurances do not even mean as much as this, still less do they mean that Russia will for the future abstain from any attempts to encroach upon Afghan territory, or that after a decent interval of quiescence she will not again resume her schemes for the seizure of Herat. Least of all, however, does Russia's conciliatory attitude signify that she has the remotest intention of ever withdrawing voluntarily from the positions she has taken up in the so-called "debateable" territory—be the decisions of the Delimitation Commissioners what they may. The Commissioners may shortly meet each other and commence work; they may discuss the various frontier lines within the "zone;" but it may be taken for granted beforehand that, unless compelled by force, Russia will not take a single step backwards.

The recognised Russian organ in the British press is still busy in its endeavours to throw dust in the eyes of the public, and by raising a discussion on such a point as the possession of Penjdeh to draw off attention from the broad question at issue between Russia and this country. No one who desires to acquire a grasp of the subject should omit to read and study the admirable paper contributed this month by Sir Henry Rawlinson to the *Nineteenth Century*. There could be no higher testimony to the value of Sir Henry Rawlinson's utterances on the subject than is afforded by the bitter and scornful tone in which he is spoken of in the columns of the anti-English journal alluded to. It appears that, ever since the Crimean War Russia has been endeavouring to neutralise British opposition to her designs in Europe by bringing pressure to bear on England in Asia. The end in view has been to arrive by gradual accretion of territory at the frontier of India. During the first ten years after the Crimean War her generals advanced by degrees, until in 1867 they conquered the citadel of Samarcand. Then the great Khanate of Bokhara was absorbed, while to the westward, in 1869, the first attack was made on the Turcomans—and made, be it noted, without any provocation on the part of the Turcomans, and even without a declaration of war. Khiva was reduced in 1873, and then the Tekkehs, the chief Turcoman tribe, were the object of aggression. The Akhals, or Tekkehs of the west, inflicted a serious reverse on the Russians in 1879; but in the following year Scobeleff took their stronghold, Geok Tepeh, by storm. After this the eastern Turcomans made no resistance, and they surrendered Merv to Russia in 1884. Throughout this period of a quarter of a century the governing principle of Russia's advance was an intense desire to reach the threshold of India, with a view to exercising pressure on Great Britain for the advancement of Russian schemes in Europe. Russia has now arrived on the Afghan frontier, and nothing can be plainer than that she is bent on prosecuting her advance until she is within easy striking distance of Herat, the acknowledged key of the road to India.

The pretensions now raised on behalf of Russia with reference to the Afghan boundary are of the most outrageous kind. For example, it is alleged that the ruler of Herat has lost his rights over the district of Badgheis, because the Turcomans have desolated it by raids during the past fifty years. The doctrine upon which such a claim is based is curious enough in itself. But, supposing it were granted, why is it necessary to assume that everything that cannot be proved to be Afghan must be Russian? As to the principle of ethnographical unity, it is contended that the Saryk Turcomans, who dwell at Penjdeh and the adjacent districts well within the Afghan borders, must be counted as Russian subjects, because another detachment of the same tribe who do not live in Afghanistan have given their allegiance to the Czar. The Saryks have been living within the Afghan border as squatters, renting Afghan lands, and are during their tenancy to be accounted as Afghan subjects; whereas Russia not only demands their registration as her own subjects, but claims the lands they occupy as well. As to Penjdeh, no question was ever raised, until a year ago, as to its being within the jurisdiction of Herat; and the Afghan commander occupied it in ignorance of the appointment of a Commission in Europe to consider the demarcation of the frontier. In any case, Russia had no right whatever, on the mere ground that she contests the Ameer's claim to certain districts, to supersede the work of the Commission by arbitrarily seizing on all these points within the disputed district, and then to mass her troops in such a way as to prove her intention of keeping what she has seized by force of arms. All this is a direct affront to England; but Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet has yielded so far as to consent to the maintenance of the *status quo* pending negotiations—an advantage to Russia which she will certainly never consent to relinquish. The whole dispute is not about this or that strip of desert. Russia, in pursuance of her original design with regard to India, will spare no effort to obtain a frontier within easy striking distance of Herat. She aims at increasing her *prestige* among her neighbours, to overawe the

Afghans, and to exercise pressure upon India. In the same way it should be the object of England to uphold her prestige in Asia, and especially in India. Much will have depended upon the result of the interview that has taken place this week between the Ameer and the Viceroy of India. It is believed that a thorough understanding has been arrived at. The Afghans seem quite prepared to resist a Russian aggression, and it is believed that within a short time an Afghan army could be put into the field numbering 100,000 men. In India we have 50,000 British troops who could be placed at once on the north-west frontier, besides 45,000 men from the Bengal Army, and 20,000 more from Bombay and Madras. The native Princes could, perhaps, bring together troops to the number of 50,000, and 10,000 volunteers could also be raised; making a possible total force of 175,000 men from India, independently of any troops sent out from home. What we doubt is not our ability to resist a Russian invasion of Afghanistan. Our real source of distrust is nearer home. We are, in fact, unable to put the least faith in the ability of Her Majesty's present advisers to meet a national crisis with boldness and resolution. That if they can manage to postpone the evil day they will assuredly do so, is a tolerably safe assumption.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

The departure of Lord Wolseley for Cairo marks the close of the first part of the campaign on the Nile, and although this suspension of hostilities in the interior of the Soudan has not yet been followed by a similar cessation of fighting in the neighbourhood of Souakim, yet it may be hoped that after General Graham has inflicted a crushing defeat on Osman Digna, the tribes may see the advisability of following the example of the two powerful chiefs who have already proferred their submission to the British General. The arrival of the New South Wales Contingent as a reinforcement to General Graham's army aroused the greatest enthusiasm among their comrades in arms; and our Australian soldiers may rely upon it that the warm welcome that greeted them at Souakim expressed the universal feeling of the British nation. We are sure that it will be found that the Australians have proved themselves in their first fight worthy of the honour accorded to them of attaching them to the Guards' brigade. As to our troops on the Nile, it is with the deepest sympathy, rather than with any surprise, that we hear that the severe and prolonged strain to which they have been subjected has at last begun to tell upon them. After all their toil in ascending the Nile, their distressing marches across the Bayuda desert, the sharp fighting in which they have been incessantly engaged, the terrible hardships and privations they have had to endure, and finally the bitter disappointment of arriving, after all, too late to save Khartoum, it cannot be wondered at that they should feel despondent and downcast at the cruel prospect of being detained for several months in the heart of the Soudan during the hot season. We can only hope that the consciousness of the heroic fidelity with which they have served their Queen and country, and the knowledge that their bravery and self-sacrifice are fully appreciated at home, will in some degree sustain these brave men through the weary months which must elapse before active operations are resumed.

And now we would venture to ask whether the time has not arrived for the English people seriously to consider once again the question which now more imperatively than ever demands a definite answer—What are we undertaking to do in the Soudan? Why are we there at all? There is a remarkable paper contributed by Sir John Lubbock to the *Contemporary Review* as to which, whether we agree with its conclusions or not, it is impossible to deny that it contains a lucid statement of the facts such as deserves to be pondered over by every thinking man in the country. First of all, it is to be borne in mind that the fall of Khartoum unquestionably altered the whole aspect of affairs. An advance upon Khartoum was not, be it observed, in itself strategically necessary to provide for the safety of Egypt or of our troops. The resolve to advance upon Khartoum was not Lord Wolseley's resolve: it was the resolve of the Government at home. That being their policy, Lord Wolseley had to concert the necessary measures for carrying it into effect. The idea of the advance undoubtedly was that the power of the Mahdi should be overthrown at Khartoum. Now that we can, if we choose, capture Khartoum next autumn is, we suppose, unquestionable. But then is capturing Khartoum the same thing as smashing the Mahdi? What is there to prevent him from retiring into the south or south-western parts of the Soudan? And, if he does, are we going to follow him there? Certainly not; the Government notoriously intend to take Khartoum only. But what then? Having taken Khartoum, are we going to hold it, with the district surrounding it? Again the reply is, Certainly not. Our Government have no idea of so doing. It might, of course, be held, though at great cost, and a British occupation of Khartoum and the neighbouring country might ultimately benefit the Soudanese. To hold the whole of the Soudan would be simply impossible. Gordon himself declared that we could not secure good government for the Soudan "without an "inordinate expenditure of men and money. "Indeed," he added, "one may say it is "impracticable at any cost." Khartoum, however, we might hold, and should do great good by holding it. But how if, in point of fact, we are distinctly *not* going to hold it? In that case the sum of the whole matter would be this. We are embarking on a ruinous expenditure (the camels for General Graham's expedition alone will cost £3,350,000, while the railway of 280 miles in length cannot be constructed at a cost of less than £10,000 per mile, and may probably cost about double that sum), and besides this expenditure we are squandering thousands upon thousands of lives for absolutely no permanent object whatever. We are *not* certain of smashing the Mahdi by advancing on Khartoum; we are *not* going to hold Khartoum; we are *not* going to secure good government for the Soudanese. But we *are* going to spend £10,000,000; we *are* going to sacrifice the lives of our brave soldiers; we *are* going to carry fire and sword through the Soudan to slaughter thousands of men, to burn the villages, ravage the crops, fill up the wells, and reduce women and children to beggary and starvation—we are going to do all this without any adequate object or definite policy. Could anything more wicked be conceived? Yet this is the course upon which Ministers are apparently bent.

To smash the Mahdi is, as they admit, the object of primary importance. They, with us, see in the Mahdi's power a menace to Christian civilisation, and above all a vast peril to Egypt. But the question is whether we are going the right way to work to overthrow him. The advance on Khartoum, as has been already said, was not a strategic necessity at all. It was a policy decided upon by the Cabinet at home. If Lord Wolseley were now to be left free to smash the Mahdi when and where he pleased, or if he were instructed to devise measures for the protection of Egypt from the Mahdi, it is quite conceivable that the British General might find himself able to effect that object by other means than an advance upon Khartoum. The defence of Egypt surely need not require the sacrifices we are making now, nor persistence in a course of action calculated to benefit neither the Soudanese nor ourselves. Glorious as have been the feats of our gallant soldiers, their bravery is the sole source of satisfaction about the whole of this horrible business. This wanton and wicked policy has been allowed full play too long. From the outset we have maintained that if Scuttle was to succeed Slaughter, then Slaughter ought not to be permitted. It is now getting more and more evident that Scuttle is exactly what is going to happen, and the whole country is thoroughly and heartily sick of this ghastly and purposeless bloodshed. Surely the time has now arrived for insisting that a stop shall be put to it.

THE MULTIPLE CONTROL.

The abysmal desperation of the Ministerial case in defence of the Egyptian Convention is revealed by Lord Rosebery's contention at Manchester that the whole of our present difficulties in Egypt have arisen from "the "loyal adherence of the Government to the "arrangement of their predecessors in enter-"ing upon the scheme of the Dual Control." The noble Lord might just as reasonably have endeavoured to connect the troubles of Egypt with its occupation by the Romans or with the campaigns of Thothmes III. Lord Rosebery knows very well that all the difficulties which Ministers now have to face are entirely of their own making. If this Convention is really, as they assert it to be, inevitable, it is they who have caused it to become so. The Dual Control was dead and buried from the day when France declined to assist us in suppressing Arabi's rebellion. After the conclusion of our first Egyptian campaign, Europe was quite willing to leave us to take what measures we pleased for the re-organisation of Egypt. How our Government neglected to avail itself of that opportunity because it could not summon up courage to face its responsibilities, is now matter of history. As to the supposed "inevitableness" of the Convention, we must altogether decline to admit that a compact so disgraceful and injurious to this country is financially inevitable at any rate. Certainly there was nothing in the recent Parliamentary Debates on the subject to prove the Ministerial assertion on this head. It was pretended that unless the Convention takes instant effect there is nothing to save Egypt from bankruptcy. Mr. Bruce, as we observed last week, has finally disposed of that allegation. Besides, even if it were true that Egypt is nearly bankrupt, there are other obvious methods of rendering her financial assistance besides the one embodied in this scheme. The real inevitableness is, of course, not financial at all, but political. Lord Salisbury, in the House of Lords last week, pointed out the significant gap that occurs in the papers on the subject presented to Parliament, which entirely omit to show what reasons the Foreign Powers had for requesting that the guarantee of the new loan should be International rather than purely British. Lord Granville, like his colleagues in the other House, shirked the point—for reasons that are obvious enough.

The country has to thank Lord Salisbury for a very clear demonstration, from a new point of view, of the direct results of a Convention such as this. The Government profess to rely on the precedent of the Anglo-French guarantee of the Turkish Loan of 1855. We have already observed that the analogy between the two cases entirely breaks down. The Turkish Loan of 1855 was under the joint guarantee of two Powers who were fighting side by side for a common object. The Egyptian Loan of 1885 is to be under the joint guarantee of six Powers, five of whom are leaving the sixth to do all the fighting, and are (to state the case mildly) by no means aiming at the object she has in view. But Lord Salisbury's chief point was that even the Joint Guarantee of 1855 had been objected to at the time on the very same ground upon which we now object to the Joint Guarantee of 1885, and that these objections were actually urged at the time by Mr. Gladstone himself. It is of great interest and importance at the present moment to observe that in 1855 Mr. Gladstone said:—"The worst of the "Guarantee is that all the guaranteeing "Powers acquire a political hold upon Turkey." And he proceeded to state the most convincing proofs of this:—"If you provide in a Treaty "to have the revenue of a given province as "security for your guarantee, no one can have "a right to charge with ambitious designs the "Government that occupies that province." These remarks are exactly applicable to the present case. The arrangement is, as Lord Salisbury says, of the nature of a mortgage. A particular clause of the Convention provides that special revenues of special provinces are mortgaged for the payment of the loan guaranteed by the Powers of Europe. But Mr. Gladstone has distinctly laid down that a treaty arrangement of that kind confers on the guaranteeing Power the right, under certain contingencies, of occupying the province the revenues of which are thus mortgaged. This, as Lord Salisbury said, is a most sinister feature of the Convention; and it proves that the new instrument involves Multiple Control in an even more direct and obvious sense than had hitherto been commonly suspected.

We do not yet lose hope that possibly something may still be done at least to neutralise some of the most objectionable features of the Convention. France is the chief instigator of the European combination against British interests in Egypt; and now that her hands are nearly full in Asia we ought to be able to exercise some effective pressure upon her, as regards not only this Convention, but also the negotiations on the subject of the Suez Canal. It is plain from M. Ferry's opening address to the Suez Canal Conference at Paris that France is prepared, in respect to that subject also, to attempt to carry matters with a high hand, and in a sense opposed to the interests of this country. Lord Granville's proposals to neutralise the Suez Canal are already humiliating enough, without any additional aggravation. It is some consolation to know that the final fate of these anti-English proposals does not rest entirely with the weak-kneed, mean-spirited, snivelling majority of the Radical House of Commons, who sneak into the lobby in support of a proposal which they know and privately confess to be ruinous to their country. These nefarious schemes have still, Lord Salisbury reminds us, to be brought before the House of Lords, and it is to be hoped that the really national branch of the Legislature may, as the Conservative Leader says, "find "it possible to do something to dissipate the "ambiguity and danger which surround this "diplomatic operation." If the Conservative Party will stand firm, it seems not impossible that we might get rid of the anti-English Convention and the anti-English Ministry at one and the same moment.

FRANCE AND CHINA.

The French disasters in Tong-king are to be regretted on several accounts. We must, however, confess to entertaining but scant sympathy for the French themselves. In the first place, their treatment of China from the outset has been arrogant and unjust in the extreme. We believe that in the original quarrel the right lay distinctly with China, and that the French Government deliberately provoked hostilities in order to have a pretext for acquiring fresh territory in Asia. Their manner of conducting the war has been even more reprehensible. The barbarities committed by the French commanders, and especially their wanton butcheries of numbers of unarmed and defenceless Chinese, are unworthy of a civilised nation. It is true that our Government has incurred a terrible debt of blood-guiltiness in the Soudan by the wanton perversity of their policy; but no one could dare charge our soldiers with cruelties such as those perpetrated by the French in China.

Another reason why we cannot pretend to regret the recent French defeats is furnished by the fact that France is the cause of our principal troubles in Egypt. She has for several years past been engaged in the most contemptible intrigues against us in Egypt, and has, besides, in many other ways displayed her determined and implacable hostility towards this country, in spite of the efforts of our Radical Government to secure her alliance—efforts which even went to the length of sacrificing the goodwill of other Powers in order to gain that of France. Our friendly advances have by been received our neighbours with nothing but a series of rebuffs, while this very war in China has been carried on not only with supreme indifference to our commercial interests, but with the greatest disregard for our just susceptibilities. On sentimental grounds, therefore, we are unable to perceive the least reason why Englishmen should sympathise with a Power which habitually exhibits towards them a hostility more bitter than that of any other nation, and whose capacities for mischief nearer home are at least curtailed by the troubles that have befallen it in Asia. To this we may add that, as English Conservatives, we see no reason whatever for wishing prosperity to the anti-Christian Revolutionary faction which now dominates over France. On the contrary, the downfall of the rotten Radical Republic is an event devoutly to be hoped for, and the sooner it occurs the better we shall be pleased. If, therefore, we regret, as we certainly do, the misfortune that has overtaken the French arms in China, it is on wholly different grounds. It is because the Chinese are only too likely to identify all Europeans with Frenchmen, and to adopt measures which will not only seriously injure our trade, but also endanger the safety of the numerous European settlers in China. From this point of view the reverses already suffered by the French, and the further disasters which seem too likely to follow, are certainly calculated to arouse considerable anxiety. It is, at any rate, to be hoped that the conclusion of peace may not be retarded by the fall of M. Ferry's Ministry. China, even since her victory at Lang-son, has accepted the French proposals for peace; but the new rulers of France will too probably think it essential to vindicate French "honour" by a fresh effort to achieve a military success.

The circumstances attending the fall of the Ferry Ministry suggest several reflections as to the points of similarity between the Cabinets of M. Ferry and of Mr. Gladstone. Both these Radical Governments have exhibited the most extraordinary aptitude for mismanaging the foreign policy of their respective countries; both have attempted to deceive Parliament and the country by suppressing information as to the real state of affairs; both have defied public opinion and trusted to the servility of majorities whose votes have notoriously been given on grounds which certainly do not deserve to be called conscientious; and both have come to be viewed with undisguised contempt by the rest of Europe. That the Cabinet which still survives may shortly

meet with the fate that has at last, by a just retribution, overtaken the other, is eminently desirable. Perhaps there is not much to be hoped for from any new French Ministry, or much probability that the Tweedledum of M. Freycinet (who, by the bye, is not entitled to the "*de*" which is often prefixed to his surname) will exhibit any marked superiority over the Tweedledee of M. Ferry. There has been some speculation as to whether a change of Ministry in France will affect the European Convention for establishing a Multiple Control in Egypt. We see little reason to suppose that it will. Europe is perfectly aware how serious an injury the Convention inflicts on British interests in Egypt, and no French Cabinet would hesitate to use every effort to obtain the realisation of the scheme which it embodies. Of the prospects of the Convention we have written at length elsewhere. We do not anticipate that either in this or any other respect the present change of Ministry in France will involve a modification of the existing situation in Europe.

AN INN OF COURT.

Everyone knows, it is patent, what a college at Oxford or Cambridge does with its money. It supports an ancient foundation; its bounty is extended to scholars, exhibitioners, and perhaps sizars; it pays the goodly array of its officers, and the residue is divided among its Fellows, giving them in most cases an income varying from £200 to £800 a year. A college has ample means of spending its money, even without being mulcted by the demands of an occasional University Commission. But an Inn of Court does little or nothing of the kind. Its income is often as good, or better. Let us take the case of a single one of the four chief Inns, the Inner Temple. It is, of course, difficult to know its actual revenue. But it is popularly credited with an income of not less than £35,000 a year. Thirty years ago, when the Inns of Court Commissioners made their Report, it was certainly more than £21,000, and it has as certainly increased since that day. Even in these times, when the trade of the country is depressed, and the Funds are sinking among wars and rumours of wars, the financial position of the Inner Temple is unimpaired. The rush of men to the Bar remains unchecked. Every year the Universities send more and more men to the keen struggle which awaits them within a few stones'-throw of Temple Bar. What with fees and commutations, each man pays at least £150 for the privilege of being "called to the Bar," without allowing a single sixpence for the expense of his legal education. A goodly portion of this sum finds its way into the coffers of his Inn. But, of course, the main source of income to such a corporation as Inner Temple is the rental of its chambers. The Inn holds rent free an extensive property on the borderland of the City, in a region where land is measured by the foot, and each foot brings a rich price and an ample return. The number of barristers is some seven thousand. Each one of these who has any pretensions to a London practice is bound to have a room, or at least a portion of a room, in one of the three chief Inns. As a matter of fact, the number of names on the doorpost of a Temple staircase is generally between two and four score. Ten sets of chambers on each staircase, and a rental of £60 for each, is certainly a low estimate. In the Inner Temple there are between forty and fifty high houses which earn two rentals of this figure on every floor. It is only a matter of using the multiplication table to see what a revenue such a rent-roll as the Inn has must produce. All the chambers are constantly let to tenants who are usually solvent and often wealthy. We do not say that a speculator in possession of the same property might not make more of it, might not make it what he would call a more "paying con-"cern," than does the Inn. But the Benchers consider themselves entitled to very fair amounts of rent, ranging, we are informed, from some £20 for a garret among the chimney-pots to some £350 for "palatial chambers," as the George Robins of the day would phrase it, in the vast mass which now dominates the Thames Embankment, and is known as Temple Gardens. These figures will be sufficient to give some idea of what a revenue the Inner Temple has from its rental and from its fees. This is the reverse of the medal, which is consistently kept in the background. Let us turn to the obverse, and see what the objects are on which the Inner Temple expends this princely income.

Here we are not left so much to gather our own estimate. Some years ago one of the most distinguished Benchers of the Inn, Sir James Stephen, wrote an article on "Law Reform by "Private Enterprise" (*Nineteenth Century*, September, 1877), in which he touched incidentally on this point. He said, with admirable frankness and candour, that "the owners being a body of "persons and not one individual, it is very natural "to ask, 'What do you do with your money?' "and I, for one, do not feel disposed to say to the "public 'What is that to you?' There is really "no mystery about it, and there is nothing at all "to conceal." After proving to demonstration that the Benchers who manage the property derive from it no money benefit whatever in any shape or form, and giving his own experience as a Bencher, a capacity in which he has found himself a member of "a very "pleasant and rather expensive club," having paid an entrance fee of three hundred guineas and continuing to pay a subscription of four guineas for the privilege of dining in Hall, whether he dined there or not, in return for which he had the prospect of a set of chambers rent-free when he should have been a Bencher for some fifteen or more years, the candid writer proceeded to give the following as the principal items of his Inn's expenditure. Apart from the expenses of management, he enumerated the Temple Church, the Garden, the Library, occasional entertainments to distinguished persons, and legal education as the objects on which the revenue of the Inn is spent. The surplus goes into the Building Fund, and this, of course, whether laid out in building or not, produces a good return. With the claim then set up by Sir James Stephen for a serious effort on the part of the Inns to improve the law, we are not concerned. Our purpose is to show how greatly the trust reposed in the Inns of Court is abused, and to what small purpose they are given a vast revenue. And in this connection we must recall to the minds of the Bench the words of the Charter which James the First granted to them. The preamble is a curiosity:—"Whereas our King-"dom of England, having been for so many ages "exceedingly prosperous in the particulars of peace "and war, and having, by the singular providence "of God, in His own time devolved upon us by "hereditary right, is sensible that great part of its "welfare is justly owing to the ancient and proper "laws of that realm, tried through a long series of "ages, and particularly adapted to that populous "and warlike nation, and approved by constant "experiences." The pietist King proceeds to make his confirmatory grant of their property to the two Temples, saying—and these are the important words—"Which said Inns, messuages, &c., for "ourselves, our heirs and successors, we strictly "command shall serve for the *entertainment and* "*education* of the Students and Professors of the "laws aforesaid, *residing in the same Inns for ever.*" Such a trust as this speaks for itself.

Taking, then, on the good authority of Sir James Stephen, these five definite items of expenditure, it is easy enough to allow a sum of £2,000 a year for the moiety of the Temple Church and its beautiful service which the Inner Temple is called upon to maintain. A like sum will suffice for the Garden and its annual show of chrysanthemums, and, what is more important, its playground during the summer months for thousands of the poorest children, who flock to its fresh air and turf from the crowded alleys of Clare Market and Seven Dials. One can forgive many sins in the Benchers when one finds one with the frankness of Sir James Stephen, and another who said, when it was suggested that the children should no longer be allowed in the Garden because they spoilt the turf, "No! I would sooner have my right arm cut off than vote for the children being kept out." This was the same spirit which, in Charles Lamb's day, disallowed a singular item in the Treasurer's accounts, "Disbursed Mr. Allen, the gardener, twenty shillings for stuff to poison the sparrows, by my orders." Coming now to the sums annually expended by the Inn on education—for it is impossible to make even an approximate estimate of the variable amounts spent on the entertainments and hospitalities of the Inn, which are given now to a Prince of the blood and now to a Herr Zukertort, but never too frequently—we find that the aggregate sum spent by the four chief Inns through the medium of the Council of Legal Education is about £6,000. Let us say that the Inner Temple's share of this is £2,000. Besides this it offers scholarships of the annual value of £630 among its own students—eliciting thereby a competition which is never excessive and often meagre, for men seem to have tired of examinations on the eve of their call to the Bar—and it maintains three sets of lectures, which are similarly exclusive. The result is that the annual attendance at one of these lectures consisted lately, within our own knowledge, oftener of two than of three hearers. There is a widespread feeling that the only way of learning how to do practical work is by seeing the actual practice of the law in busy chambers. Consequently, men prefer to spend their days at the feet of some hard-working barrister, whose honorarium is an annual hundred guineas, to listening to a cut-and-dried exposition of any particular subject. The whole amount, then, which the Inn spends every year on the education of its students is not more than £3,000, and with this it salves a never too scrupulous conscience. Allowing a third annual £2,000 for the maintenance of the Library, we have exhausted Sir James Stephen's catalogue, and we have only accounted for £9,000 out of the £35,000 which is the Inn's reputed income. A good deal must, however, be allowed for the expenses of management, and for the pensions and wages of the sleek porters and "panniers," a host of whom seem to live on the Inn. There is a further expenditure upon the students' dinners. A term is kept by eating or being present, *ab ovo usque ad mala*, at three dinners of the type which every reader of *Pendennis* knows. Most men are content with eating their three dinners, for which they pay no less than a guinea. Shall we be believed when we say that the Inn is out of pocket on those meals? So great is the waste and so many are the perquisites—for as there is no system of giving notice of an intention to dine, dinner is provided for an unlimited number every night—that the guinea will not cover the outlay on the simple fare which is provided. This is, we fear, only a sample of Temple economy.

We have accounted for some £10,000 or £12,000 only. And the residue—the enormous residue—goes into the insatiable Building Fund. Thus it is that the face of the Temple is being rapidly changed. Each successive Treasurer seems to feel called upon to record his term of office not only by a supply of fresh psalters, with his name fully emblazoned thereon, for the Church, but also by a brand-new pile of bricks and mortar. The mythology of the Temple is being quickly destroyed. All is modernised. Well may poor Lamb complain that "they have lately Gothicised the "entrance to the Inner Temple Hall and the "Library front; to assimilate them, I suppose, to "the body of the Hall, which they do not at all "resemble. What has become of the winged "horse that stood over the former?—a stately "arms! and who has removed those frescoes of the "Virtues which Italianised the end of the Paper "Buildings?—my first hint of allegory! They must "account to me for these things, which I miss so "greatly." The old buildings will soon have disappeared, one and all. They are gone, and have given place to stucco and gurgoyles and alcoves. One may now seek in vain for the places where "Coke mused upon Littleton and Byles "composed his immortal work on Bills," where the frantic games of blind man's buff which preceded Oliver Goldsmith's supper parties above were wont to disturb the flowing periods which were to be dovetailed into Blackstone's *Commentaries* below; where that Cerberus of the unwritten history of conversation,* Samuel Johnson, held his sway with his trenchant "Why, sir?" and "What "then, sir?" and "You don't see your way "through the question, sir." We are told that there is no place in all London to which so many of our Transatlantic cousins find their way than the old fountain where those more ardent lovers of Dickens can picture to themselves how Ruth Pinch came briskly up to meet John Westlock "with the best little laugh upon her face that ever "played in opposition to the fountain, and beat it "all to nothing." Time was—not ten years since—when one approached that quiet spot from the river by a flight of broad, shallow, well-worn steps, such as old and feeble limbs delight in; but not even the shadow of the Hall beneath whose ancient rafters the world of Elizabeth's Court first saw *Twelfth Night; or, What You Will*, could save those steps, and now one has to climb the flight of steep, sharp granite stairs which nothing but modern taste—we had almost said modern Vandalism—could prefer to the old. But memories and associations weigh for nothing in the scale when it is a question of recording a Treasurer's term of office in as durable a pile as may be reared.

Building, then, and waste are to all appearances the channels of Templar munificence, the conduit-pipes in which this immense surplus flows year after year. Can nothing be done to check this lavish outlay? Surely here, if anywhere, are needed the hand of the reformer and the sharp sword which has so long hung over the other great corporations of the City. There is no lack of suitable purposes to which much of this large revenue might well be devoted. Not to speak of the effort to improve the law, in favour of which a single Bencher has been found—to his honour be it said—ready to raise his voice, surely the Inn might do much more than it does in the way of fitting its members for the struggle in which they are to be engaged. As it is, a man who means to cut any figure at the Bar is compelled to educate himself, and almost entirely at his own charges. Something, again, might be done to encourage men to live in the Temple as they do in a college. If the chambers were as inexpensive as are most college-rooms, and were strictly kept for members of the Inn, many men would gladly come who now stand aloof. If a college can support in numbers those who could not live at the University without its aid, cannot the Inn do something on the same lines? The college don of the future is to spend his days alternating between lecture and "research." Might not a barrister, when as yet or no longer wooed by "briefs," be employed by his Inn on the vast labour of codifying and digesting the law, which looms ahead of the present generation of lawyers? But it is easy to throw out and multiply suggestions of the work which might be done by a wealthy Inn, such as the Inner Temple. The melancholy truth, however, continually makes itself felt that there is no sort of prospect of the Benchers who govern the Inns moving in any direction. They are either so deeply immersed in the anxieties of a large practice, or so far gone towards their last bourne that they sit carelessly beside their nectar, and it is hopeless to expect any reform at their hands. The only remedy is an infusion of fresh blood in the veins of the body politic which rules the Inn. At present the whole body of barristers has not a single vote in its councils, much less the students. By the time that a barrister reaches the Bench of his Inn, he has forgotten, if he ever completely realised, the wishes and needs of the two lower grades. He is absorbed, if not in business, in the cares of family or self. He loses all wish and power to do anything for the better government of the corporation over which, with his fellows, he presides. And this is why the trust which past generations have reposed in the Inns of Court, and the duties which the present requires at their hands, are alike neglected and forgotten.

* A paper, however, on "The Art of Conversation" appears in the current number of the *Deutsche Rundschau*.

Reviews.

LORD LYTTON'S NEW POEM.*

Lord Lytton has, before his accession to the title, and while yet writing under his pseudonym of "Owen Meredith," won for himself so high a place among the poets of the day that it has been matter of surprise and regret that his Muse should have been so long silent. We have had nothing from him of late years to maintain his early promise, except *The Fables in Song*, of which we ourselves entertain a higher opinion than has been expressed in many critical quarters. It appeared that once again, as in the days of Pope, the claims of the politician had proved fatal to the claims of the poet; and when we looked on the good service which the second Lord Lytton had rendered to his country as Governor-General of India—a good service, the value of which has been brought out all the more forcibly by the events of the present day—we felt inclined to re-echo the spirit of Pope's words when he complained—

> How sweet an Ovid Murray was our boast;
> How many Martials were in Pulteney lost!

We have now before us a fresh venture by the accomplished author of *Lucile*, and whatever estimate may be formed of its success by the *genus irritabile* of critics, and widely as that estimate will probably differ, having regard to the idiosyncrasies of the individual critic, we must confess for our own part that we recognise in it a work of true poetic genius, which stands out prominently from the ordinary run of those books of poetry which vex so much our critical souls. At the same time we acknowledge that it is not one of those few masterpieces of poetry which take the world by storm, and about which it is impossible that critical estimates should vary. But we doubt if any impartial critic who studies it with the attention which it deserves can fail to recognise in it many of the elements of a great poem.

Lord Lytton has ventured on a bold experiment in the method of publication which he has adopted. Accustomed as we are to the use of the serial form in prose fiction, it takes us somewhat with surprise to find that form adopted in poetry. The first instalment of *Glenaveril*, which is now before us, contains the first of the six books into which the complete poem is to be divided, and the others are, we gather, to follow in a monthly series. Such a method of publication has its undoubted advantages, but also its undoubted drawbacks. It must be reckoned among the advantages that we get a manageable amount of poetry presented to us at once, and are not choked off by the vast amount of verse which challenges our attention when a poetic work of this magnitude is presented to us in its entirety. It must be reckoned among the drawbacks that by reading the poem piecemeal we fail to grasp its full effect, and that we are not carried on from book to book in the same manner as when we meet with the story as a whole which must of necessity be a hindrance in our enjoyment of it. As the instalment now before us only presents the first of the six books into which the poem when complete is to be divided, it may seem premature to say anything about its plot. But there are certains indications of the character of the plot which the careful student may gather even from the first instalment. Moreover, the second title, which the author has added when he calls his poem

* *Glenaveril; or, The Metamorphoses.* By the Earl of Lytton. Book I.—London: John Murray, 1885.

Glenaveril; or, *The Metamorphoses*, is in itself suggestive and points to a further complication. As far as the work has at present gone the out line of it may be thus briefly summarised. Lord Glenaveril—the representative of a race which laboured under a strange fatality for—

red, from place
To place, from age to age, from man to man,
The long hereditary bloodstain ran—

is at the opening of it represented as travelling homeward with his young wife, when in the Black Forest he meets his fate under circumstances which, as described in the opening stanzas of the poem, strike its keynote, and warn the reader of the mixture of grave and gay which is to be found in Lord Lytton's poem—

IV.

'Twas nigh the ending of the year and day,
And both in sombre golden splendour glowed;
October prone upon the hillside lay,
Down-drooping, half asleep, his fervid load
Of loosened fruitage; when along the way,
Full light of heart, a youthful horseman rode
With heedless hand, at rapid pace, not knowing
That Death, by chance, the self-same way was going.

V.

Youth, in its saucy certitude of joy,
Slights and offends, by noticing it not,
The sadness of that shrouded majesty
Whose unseen power is jealous when forgot.
The Austrian Gessler hung his bonnet high
Upon a pole in some conspicuous spot,
And bade the surly Switzer doff his own,
Passing the symbol of an unseen crown.

VI.

A bidding easily obeyed! And yet
The rascals all refused to be polite,
Taking the invitation for a threat;
And that is why, perchance, the Swiss are quite
The most uncivil folks you ever met,
Even to this day. But Gessler's thought was right.
Tyranny's motto (learn it, young aspirant
To freedom!) is *Memento*. Death's a tyrant.

VII.

Remember, and salute him, sons of clay!
Ave, te salutamus, Thanatos!
That horseman spied not Death upon his way,
And passed without saluting. Death was cross
To be so slighted by his natural prey,
And shook the rein with a resentful toss.
The steed beheld the spectre, swerved aside,
Rolled down the abyss,—and Death was satisfied.

The widowed wife is at the time staying in the house of the widow of a Lutheran minister, who, like herself, is in an interesting condition, and the two babes, the heir of the Glenaverils and the child of Pastor Muller, are born almost on the same day. To those who read between the lines there is an obvious suggestion of their being changed at nurse, but this hint is left to be more fully developed in subsequent books. As far as that now before us—entitled "The Orphans"—is concerned, we are only told how the two children, thus strangely united in their earliest infancy, loved each other with a love passing the love of brothers, and how the young English nobleman, brought up amid all the luxury and splendour of his position, never wavered in his affection for the young German student, who was carefully brought up by a maiden aunt—described with much humour and vivacity—to follow in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather as a village pastor. A certain German Professor, a friend of young Glenaveril's mother and grandfather—indeed, something more than a friend to the former—watches over his youth; and the description of the Professor would be worth quoting, did space permit, as a proof how completely Lord Lytton has caught the half-serious, half-sarcastic tone which suits so well with the metrical form which he has adopted.

Under the care of this good old man, and of his own widowed mother, with occasional visits to his quasi foster-brother, Glenaveril grows up to manhood, and our readers will pardon the somewhat lengthy quotation which describes his growth:—

XIII.

Baptised in tears, and by a mother's groans
Greeted to life and sorrow, this lone child
Was all the more beloved. The pleading moans
Of Ivor's plaintive infancy beguiled
Grief to soft response, mimicking Joy's tones.
Upon her babe the weeping mother smiled
With widowed eyes; and, sombre as regret,
Hope hailed a promise that recalled a threat.

XIV.

The babe lived on, grew up, became a boy;
About his being felt a mother's love
Sweetened by sadness; learned to look for joy
In tear-stained eyes, and thro' the hushed house move
With uncompanioned steps, whose echoes coy
Scared not the sensitive quietness above
Floors that were haunted by the shadow of death,
Where Mirth in whispers spake with bated breath.

XV.

Dwellers in boreal regions by the pole
Call twilight day, and know no other light:
Like theirs, there is a twilight of the soul
Where, as a polar sun, by day and night
Tho' pale, yet beautiful, throughout the whole
Of its dim summer beaming darkly bright,
A love that sets not thro' a shadowy air
Shines on strange flowers that only blossom there.

XVI.

Such blossoms in young Ivor's childhood grew.
The solitary child contemplated
Shadow and depth undaunted. Well he knew,
By some wise instinct in his being bred
From griefs not his, that heaven's transcendent blue,
Dazzling the hawk's eye on the mountain's head,
A sweeter and serener glory takes
Reflected from the bosom of dark lakes.

XVII.

Some childhoods are there, that impatient pass
Into life's sewer of common cares, almost
As rapid as the rinsings of a glass
Down from the garret to the gutter tossed
By some wild Magdalen, whose midnight mass
Is a libation to the unhid ghost
Of her slain innocence. Where such drops fall
No blossoms spring. The gutter takes them all.

XVIII.

Others there be whose days are drops of dew
That softly, droplet after droplet, sliding
From flower to flower, in sheltered peace pursue
Hushed grassy courses; all their sweetness hiding,
Till from its silent growth a rivulet new
The woodland wins, along whose wavelets gliding
On sunbeams, and on moonbeams, fearless elves
Under dim forest leaves disport themselves.

XIX.

And there's a beauty that demands the light,
Bursting, like glory from the battle plain,
Full-blown. A whole world's homage is its right;
The sun is not solicited in vain;
He shines to be admired from alpine height
To height, from shore to shore, from main to main,
The god goes radiant, gilding, as it rolls,
Each wave between the Indus and the poles.

XX.

But oh, that beauty born beneath the veil,
The Isis of the heart! By many a fold
Its mystic vesture tells the silent tale
Of charms that eyes profane may not behold:
Whilst to its own appointed priest the pale
Composure of the sacred image, stoled
In sweet repose, if ruffled not, reveals
The secret it from all beside conceals.

XXI.

Lift not the veil! Divined in silence, leave
The beauty hid beneath its holy hem!
Poesy, Childhood, Faith, Love, Passion, weave
(Like the wise moth, ere round the rose's stem
With wavering joy his budded winglets heave)
O'er them a mystery that shelters them
From the rude touch, and the inquisitive eye;
Lift not the veil; but worship and pass by!

When he comes of age Lord Glenaveril takes his seat in the House of Peers, and it is probable that the political sketches which Lord Lytton introduces at this stage of his poem will form its main attraction for most readers. We are reminded by them of the admirable portraitures in the *New Timon*, one of his father's works which has not been appreciated as it deserves. We can hardly say that Lord Lytton has given us in *Glenaveril* anything quite so good as his father's sketch of the late Lord Derby in the earlier work, but there are at the same time many very striking pictures of the celebrities of the day, which add much to the reader's interest. Of these the most elaborate is that of the great Conservative leader, who could easily have been identified under a less transparent pseudonym:—

XIII.

What stately form, in that historic hall
Now rising as the expectant cheer ascends,
Stoops the swayed outline of its stature tall,
And o'er the box upon the table bends
Brows weighty with stored thought about to fall
In unpremeditated speech, that blends
Slow-gathering forces in its wavelike swell?
Behold Cæcilius, and observe him well!

XIV.

For not yet by the influence or the power
It hath attained can this chief's greatness be
Completely gauged. 'Tis growing still. His hour
Is not yet come. A force mysterious he,
By friends and foes but half-divined. A tower
That, high above their heads, beholders see
Looming aloft in cloudy solitudes:
Their course it points, but their approach eludes.

XV.

Times low and little—the blind craft which loses
A cause to catch a vote—the artifice
That stoops to conquer—the sly speech that glozes
Meanness with solemn plausibilities,
Or the loud rant that upon crowds imposes—
Need not such men. Them, dunces deem unwise,
And cowards rash. But by such men alone
Great times are guided, and great deeds are done.

XVI.

Let the times ripen—let the hour arise
When, from the grim inevitable crash
Of all the smooth deceits and pleasant lies
Men still deem safe, bewildered by the flash
Of knowledge known too late, they lift scorched eyes,
And stretch lamed hands to seize—not truthless trash,
But rescue from it—then, and then alone,
Thy worth, Cæcilius, shall be fully known!

XVII.

Tho' born the scion of a House that boasts
Historic title to its rich domains,
Long while about the obscure and bitter coasts
Of that bleak land where Want's chill winter reigns,
The hardest labourer of those struggling hosts
Who daily dig for bread its stubborn plains,
His sad youth toiled; and from its toil hath wrought,
To enrich his manhood, treasures dearly bought.

XVIII.

Treasures of deepened thought and widened life;
A well-stored memory and a ready wit;
Prone to reflection, yet inured to strife,
Alike for study and for action fit;
An English heart with high-born ardours rife;
Fervid as Fox, but national as Pitt;
And, for that cause, mistrusted by a time
When to be national is deemed a crime.

XIX.

Philosopher and Paladin in one;
The soldier's courage, and the sage's lore;
A searching intellect that leaves no stone
Unturned on any path its thoughts explore;
A rush of repartee that, not alone
Dazz'les, but scathes—like lightning flashing o'er
The loaded fulness of a brooding mind,
Scornful of men, but studious of mankind.

XX.

Observe his mien. Above the spacious chest
The large Olympian forehead forward droops
Its massive temples, as if thus to rest
The crowded brain their firm-built bastion coops;
And the large slouching shoulder, as oppressed
By the prone head, habitually stoops
Above a world his contemplative gaze
Peruses, finding little there to praise.

XXI.

And, as the outward, so the inward man,
Larger and loftier than are other men,
To meet their level must contract its span,
And stoop its height. Weak followers, now and then,
While fearless strides the chieftain in their van,
Lag in the rear so far behind that when
The victory else were won 'tis lost at last,
Because the baggage-waggons have stuck fast!

XXII.

As when (ah, woe the day!) with dauntless zeal,
To save Hibernia's garrison, he drew
His trenchant blade, and his proud clarion's peal
To the Freebooters' Camp defiance blew,
What checked the hand? Why sank the lifted steel?
A murmur thro' the host behind him flew,
The baffled chief obeyed the muttered word,
"And in the sheath, reluctant plunged the sword."

We see no reason to quarrel with this description as couched in too high or too grandiloquent a tone, but regard it as a faithful no less than as a striking portraiture. Our space forbids us to quote other sketches, as those of the Duke of Argyll, of Lord Granville—which is specially happy—and of Lord Carnarvon in the Upper House, and of Mr. Bright, of Mr. Chamberlain, and Sir William Harcourt in the Lower House, though the last mentioned is almost irresistible. Nor can we give *in extenso* the portraiture of "Grandævus" himself, though room must be found for a portion of it:—

LIII.

Burke, Fox, Pitt, Chatham, Canning, Brougham, and Peel,
All put together—by mere force of speech
Could no such faith inspire, nor fan such zeal,
As those to whom Grandævus loves to preach
(Devout as Ghazis!) in his preaching feel.
Yet this great orator's orations, each
And all, we search, and search in vain, to find
Aught of the smallest value to the mind.

LIV.

Not one new truth, not one deep thought, not one
Original fancy, or profound remark!
No gleam of wit that sheds new lights upon
Old commonplaces! not a single spark
Of genius or creative power! When gone
The living voice, we wander thro' a dark
And tedious labyrinth of words, that say
Nothing the thankful mind can bear away.

LV.

The man himself, a Chillingworth in creed;
Not his the mind that in its own deep well
Finds truth, and, trusting her still voice, doth need,
To guide his steps, no noisier oracle.
To-day stout oak, to-morrow bending reed,
According as the wind may sink or swell;
To him the weathercock's a heavenly force,
And its loud rattle regulates his course.

LVI.

Men of far-reaching action are born seers,
And their intelligence is in their eyes;
That of the vulgar crowd is in its ears;
Not light, but sound, the guiding force supplies
To its blind brain. It goes by what it hears;
And, since to it the noisy seem the wise,
It dreads the thunder-clap, forgetting quite
That 'tis the lightning only that can smite.

LVII.

Yet great his gift, whom multitudes of men
With shut eyes follow, shouting to the sound
His mouth emits, and dancing blindfold when
Its strains they hear: and, where it only found
With insight and true statesmanship, who then
Would wish that gift ungiven? But gaze around!
Where'er this shepherd's pipe his sheep hath led,
The paths with ruin and disgrace are spread.

LVIII.

Confusion, and dismay, and wrath, and shame,
And death, and doubt, and pain, and tribulation
Are in the cup he ministers. The name
Of a once glorious and magnanimous nation,
To him entrusted, hath been bathed in blame,
And made the byeword of humiliation.
Still to prolong his shameless shameful hour
Of personally comfortable power,

LIX.

Loosed, o'er a land betrayed, hath treason been,
To run, unreined, its sanguinary course;
Victims the noblest, to appease obscene
And senseless idols, slain without remorse;
And all the while, with self-admiring mien,
And throat with self-congratulation hoarse,
Soaked in his country's blood, yet blushing never,
He boasts, and bawls, and babbles on for ever!

The last canto of Lord Lytton's first book is hardly so interesting to us as its predecessors. It tells how Glenaveril, having remained faithful in heart to his German friend during their forced separation, meets him again at Heidelberg, and in vain endeavours to win him to share his own fortunes and to forsake his destined career as a Lutheran minister. As a kind of compromise, Emanuel Muller consents to travel for a time in Glenaveril's company, and also agrees that, like the American young ladies in Mr. Laurence Oliphant's latest novel, there should be a change of identity between them. This metamorphosis, having regard to the earlier metamorphosis to which we have referred, promises a rich harvest of incidents for the succeeding cantos of the poem. If these cantos contain, in addition, as much of true poetry and of keen satire as are to be found in that which is now presented to us, *Glenaveril* can hardly fail to take a place among the most notable poems of the day, even though it can hardly aspire to a place among the great poems of the world. Lord Lytton has shown himself in it a skilled master of melody, and though, as we have before said, we may perhaps cavil at the metre which he has selected, as better suited to the last generation than to the present, and though for our own part we feel sometimes aggrieved at the rapid transition from the sublime to the ludicrous to which that metre lends itself but too readily, we must own that it has been wielded with consummate skill. No one but a true poet could have have written such a stanza as the following:—

LXXII.

Tears are the oldest and the commonest
Of all things upon earth: and yet how new
The tale each time told by them! how unblessed
Were life's hard way without their heavenly dew!
Joy borrows them from Grief: Faith trembles lest
She lose them: even Hope herself smiles thro'
The rainbow they make round her as they fall:
And Death, that cannot weep, sets weeping all.

or the address to Youth and Childhood in the last Book, which we would gladly have quoted had not our extracts already exceeded all reasonable bounds. We must therefore content ourselves with but one stanza more, which has a political as well as a poetical attraction for us:—

IV.

O England, O my Country! Is thy sun
Sunk in a fogbank bred from its own heats?
O land of Nelson, and of Wellington,
The prowess of thine armies and thy fleets
What now attests? Vain victories, soon as won
Repented and renounced—the smouldering streets
Of Alexandria—and the dead that still
Lie unavenged upon Majuba Hill!

AN ENGLISH LADY IN INDIA.*

Mr. Lucy's book, which we recently reviewed, only dealt with India as one part of its subject: the book which we next have to notice makes our Indian Empire its sole theme. In it we find recorded, without any attempt at fine writing, the daily life of one of the many of our fellow-countrywomen whose married lot is cast in that far-off land. The author endeavours to hold an even balance between the two extremes of misrepresentation—that which depicts the life of the Anglo-Indian as being all fun and gaiety, and that which depicts her life as "a mixture of snakes, "heat, and dulness." Mrs. Robert Moss King, who has thus undertaken to portray the unvarnished record of the daily experiences of *A Civilian's Wife in India*, has compiled her book from the diary which she kept during her five years of residence in the north of that far-off land, years which she describes as very happy ones; and the journal from which the record is taken was written day by day and sent home at brief intervals without an opportunity of correcting inaccurate, and often, as she herself is the first to admit, one-sided impressions. She professes—and we are bound to believe a lady—that the diary was sent without any view to publication, and with no idea that it would ever be read beyond the circle of the writer's own family. How it comes to appeal to a wider circle is not expressly stated; but we can well fancy that the home readers may have thought it a pity that so admirable a narrative of the daily interests and trials of Indian life should be confined to that narrower circle. We do not wish to have to formulate a critical judgment on the advisability or the nonadvisability of its publication. On the one hand, we can well believe that there are many other civilian wives who could give quite as good an account of their ordinary life as is here given. On the other hand, we can quite believe that there are many having female relatives in India who will be glad to have so graphic a sketch furnished to them of that ordinary life. Much which is so familiar to Anglo-Indians that they wonder it should be thought worth recording has the charm of novelty for stay-at-home readers; and at the same time the Anglo-Indians themselves are glad to have reproduced for them the old scenes with which they were once so familiar. We may, therefore, predict for Mrs. Moss King a good supply of readers of both classes—some eager to know what the daily course of a life so strange to them can be, others glad to retrace in her pages their own experiences of that life. Belonging, as we ourselves do, to the first class, we must own to having derived considerable amusement from the record of her experiences. The second volume is, perhaps, the more interesting of the two, and the author's visit to Cashmere calls forth all her powers. It is certainly the better illustrated. Mrs. King is, as a rule, a more accomplished artist with the pen than with the pencil, and assuredly animal drawing is not her forte. But some of her sketches of scenery are undoubtedly clever, as, for example, that of the bridge at Serinagar. While the party were at Sahranpur the Viceroy paid a visit to the place, and we are glad to contrast her sketch of Lord Ripon with that which is generally given. It may be that being away from Calcutta he thought he might safely unbend; but the author, at all events, found him most amiable and courteous, which is not in accordance with the general opinion. We may doubt if she is altogether a discriminating judge, as she balances her eulogies on Lord Ripon with an attack on Lord Lytton for his undue regard to native prejudices. It is, however, well to regard such a book apart from these graver political questions, which a civilian's wife is hardly so competent to discuss as she is to reproduce the ordinary incidents of social life. This Mrs. Moss King does with much success. She has some good stories to tell: as, for example, that of the station-master in the Central Provinces who telegraphed to his official superior—"Tiger jump-"ing in station-yard. Pointsman unable to go to "points through fear. Please arrange sharp." We have an impression that this is an established Indian Joe Miller; but at all events it emphasises the strange amalgamation of East and West which is to be found in British India. We must not part from these volumes, with their interesting record of the ordinary experiences of *A Civilian's Wife in India*—that those experiences are nothing out of the common, but are shared by many in similar circumstances, adds to, rather than detracts from, their value—without a word of praise for the delicate and refined cover which the publishers have supplied to them. It is, perhaps, "all too bright and good for human creatures' "daily" use, but it adds much to their attraction for the reader.

THEOLOGY WITHOUT DOGMA.†

Dr. James Drummond's *Introduction to the Study of Theology* is the substance of a course of lectures delivered at an institution in Gordon-square known as Manchester New College, and intended for the promotion of something variously described as "Free Religious Thought", and "Theology Unfettered by Dogma." As the original Manchester College is connected with the Unitarian body, and as Manchester New College has Dr. Martineau for its Principal, we may perhaps not unfairly assume that the latter exists for the purpose of disseminating Unitarianism also. If that be the case, its promoters would perhaps be acting more straightforwardly if they said so at once; but a

* *The Diary of a Civilian's Wife in India*, 1877-82. By Mrs. Robert Moss King. In Two Vols.—London: R. Bentley and Sons, 1884.

† *Introduction to the Study of Theology*. By James Drummond, D.D.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1884.

tendency to shrink from avowing tenets which are essentially anti-Christian, and to conciliate public opinion by posing as the supporters of a liberal-minded and "enlightened" Christianity, is quite in accordance with much that we have observed in connection with Unitarian tactics.

Dr. Drummond's treatise propounds a great many problems which it discreetly leaves unsolved. Although it professes to deal with Christian Theology, a phrase which in the mouths of Christians at least means the science of God as revealed by Christ, there is very little to be found in it about God or about Christ our Lord—much less, in fact, than about Mental Philosophy, Ethics, Comparative Religion, Textual Criticism, Archæology, Ecclesiastical History, Literature, Art, and other matters, all of which have a more or less direct bearing upon Religion, but are by no means to be included in Theology. An imposing parade is made of these numerous topics in the Table of Contents; though what Dr. Drummond has to tell us about any of them does not amount to much, and there is little originality in his mode of tracing the relations in which the various branches of study named stand towards each other and towards Theology proper. His style is not seldom obscure, and abounds in a grandiloquent verbiage that often conveys but little sense. The value of his information is curiously exemplified in his observations on "Liturgies." We cannot help wondering what kind of students they can be who need to be assured that Λειτουργία is not derived from Λιτή, a prayer; while we look in vain for an adequate explanation of how it was that the word came to acquire its technical meaning. Under this same heading the first thing we find mentioned is the Sermon, but we do *not* find any mention of what that Service is which, from the very beginning of the Christian Church, has formed her solemn Λειτουργία.

A fair idea of the tone and general purpose of the book may be gathered from the Preface, where the author declares that "Theology should have the same "freedom as Physical Science," and pleads for that "perfect liberty in theological research" which is "admitted to be the indispensable condition of truth in every other subject of human "enquiry." Such a demand betrays a surprising confusion of thought. Theology is both like and unlike other sciences. Like them it deals with particular ascertained facts; but Theology differs from other sciences in the method by which the facts themselves are arrived at. The primary facts of Physical Science are reached by enquiry and research: the primary facts of Theology are obtained by Divine Revelation. The basis of Physical Science is laid in the natural order: the basis of Theology in the supernatural order. No doubt it is by reason and the light of nature that we first learn the existence and perfection of God, and the moral being of man. But that knowledge is not Theology. Theology can only begin when the Being of God is granted; for Theology is the science of God, although Dr. Drummond expresses his dislike of that definition of the term.

The essentially mischievous character of this book does not lie in the fact that it recommends the study, with special attention to their bearing on Theology, of such subjects as Comparative Religion, Philosophy, History, and the like. On the contrary, advice of that kind would have had our warmest approval. What we condemn is the spirit in which students are urged to pursue these researches, and the mental attitude which is inculcated towards the Christian Faith. We protest against the acceptance of Christianity being made dependent on the result of a preliminary inquiry carried on in these other and external fields of thought. As we have just said, the function of man's reason in the sphere of religion is strictly limited. The light of nature has exhausted its capabilities when it has led us to expect a Revelation from God. The doctrines of that Divine Revelation are apprehended, not by the natural reason, but by supernatural faith. The Rationalist method ignores this distinction, and brings all doctrines to the bar of human reason. Thus, for example, we are warned here (p. 116), when studying the Life of Christ, on no account "to assume at starting any particular dogma in "regard to the nature and office of Christ." Our reply is that our whole estimate of that Life must depend absolutely upon what we already believe with regard to the Person and Work of Him Who thus revealed Himself in His Life on earth.

It is time that theological students in particular should be put on their guard against insidious Socinian attempts to masquerade under a Christian disguise. These teachers, like their Arian ancestors of old, take good care to employ devout Christian phraseology as far as possible; to wrap up their full meaning, and to avoid shocking sensitive minds by too bald an irreverence; to suggest doubts rather than to formulate outright denials of Christian doctrine. On the other hand, Rationalism no doubt attracts many (especially young) minds by a plausible appearance of impartiality, as well as by pandering to the vanity of the human intellect in assuring it both of its ability and of its right to sit in judgment upon "dogma." In these matters to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

NEW NOVELS.

Miss Braddon is the established high priestess of the sensational cult, and it is some time since she has gratified her devotees with so excellent a specimen of that class of literature in which she first made her mark as is to be found in *Wyllard's Weird*.* The promising opening, which describes how a young lady, name unknown, is thrown over a railway viaduct by some unknown murderer, forewarns us that we are to be introduced once again into that mysterious realm in which Miss Braddon so much delights. Nor does the novel belie the promise of its opening, and the unravelling of the mystery is conducted in a most skilful manner. The task of unravelling it falls this time on a certain Edward Heathcote, who combines the office of coroner with a position among the county gentry not generally attained by the holder of that office. We should also mention that his official duties sit somewhat lightly on him, and that he is able to devote himself to his self-imposed task as a private detective for months together, during which we may presume no inquests are held in Cornwall. He is more at home in his amateur than in his professional capacity, and, with all the marvellous skill with which Miss Braddon invests those of her good heroes who are employed by her to trace out the misdeeds of her bad heroes, he succeeds where English criminal lawyers and skilled French detectives are found at fault. The most striking feature in the present story is the way in which the crime of to-day is interwoven with the crime of ten years ago, and the perpetrator of the one is tracked out by investigating the history of the other. We may, perhaps, complain that the novelist has let her audience too early into her secret, and any one who has had experience in criminal novels will have no difficulty in identifying the murderer in the first chapter. But it is very difficult to see what his motive can be or how the crime is to be brought home to him, and we are not sure that for some readers it may not be an advantage to have been let into the secret, as they are then enabled better to enjoy the manner in which the threads are so skilfully gathered up. There is a very powerful scene when the coroner finds himself at last face to face with the criminal whom he has hunted down in the presence of the woman whom both had loved, and poetical justice is satisfied by the death of the criminal without his being brought to the bar of the Old Bailey for his second murder, or found guilty of the first murder with extenuating circumstances by a sympathising French tribunal. The underplot is hardly so happy, and we feel more irritation at than sympathy with the perverse Quixotism of Hilda Heathcote, who runs away and hides herself just before her marriage with Bothwell Grahame without any sufficient cause for sacrificing both herself and her husband. It was, no doubt, very uncomfortable for her to have such an interview as that with Lady Valeria Harborow; and, if Bothwell had not already informed her of the entanglement from which he had had so much difficulty in extricating himself, there might have been some excuse for her accepting Lady Valeria's suggestion that she was standing in the way of her lover's happiness and prosperity. But after his frank confession there was no excuse for her misapprehension, and, we must add, no excuse for her reading the letters which he had addressed to Lady Valeria. Nor did these letters tell her anything which she did not know before, and, discreditable as Bothwell's conduct had been in acting so treacherously towards poor General Harborow, it was not by any means on that ground that] she withdrew from the marriage. It would have been difficult for a pure-minded girl to feel any respect for a man who had so conducted himself; but it was not her loss of respect for her affianced husband, but her belief that he would make a better thing of it by marrying Lady Valeria, which dictated her cause of action. The connection between the two plots is to be found, not only in the relationship of Hilda to the coroner-detective, but in the suspicion under which Bothwell labours of having been the perpetrator of the murder.

* *Wyllard's Weird.* By the Author of *Lady Audley's Secret.* In Three Vols.—London: John and Robert Maxwell, 1885.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Mr. Charles Marvin, who is so great an authority on Muscovite progress in Central Asia, has published a very opportune and very interesting little *brochure*, entitled *The Russians at the Gates of Herat* (Frederick Warne and Co.), which can hardly fail to obtain a wide circulation at the present crisis. The author is, as we all know, a Rossophobe—if by that term is supposed to be meant an attentive and anxious observer of the advance which our great rival in that part of the world is making. Our statesmen at home have been apt to think lightly of that advance till forced to view it in its true light by recent events. Few more useful contributions towards such a view have appeared than Mr. Marvin's pamphlet, which, though written and got out in the marvellously short space of eight days, and thus literally fulfilling the description of a *livre d'occasion*, is by no means a hasty digest of information crammed up for the nonce, as *livres d'occasion* so often are. The author writes as a man who is thoroughly master of his subject, and no more valuable *résumé* of that subject from an English and not from a Russian point of view has yet appeared. If anyone thinks Mr. Marvin too highly coloured—we are not ourselves in the number of those who thus think—they may correct his statements by the latest *Pall Mall Gazette Extra*, which has just appeared under the title of *Fight or Arbitrate.* Our contemporary has, as our readers are aware, strongly taken up the Russian side of the question. We cannot, therefore, recommend the pamphlet as a thoroughly impartial view of the situation, and naturally the arguments on the side to which the writers themselves incline are most forcibly presented. But between the two, that is between Mr. Marvin and the *Pall Mall Gazette*, it ought not to be difficult for the impartial student of the question to arrive at a thorough knowledge of its bearings. If, however, like the Irish magistrate, he does not wish to be bothered by hearing both sides, we can strongly recommend Mr. Marvin as the best side to listen to.

One of the most clever political satires of the day, similar in design to the *Gladstone Almanack*, has just appeared under the title of the *Egyptian Red-book* (William Blackwood and Co.). Every page abounds in stubborn fact, bearing on the abominable "too late" policy of the Government, every entry of which can be authenticated by reference to the official Blue-books and *Hansard's Debates.* The entries carry us from September 2, 1882, to January 26, 1885, and are interspersed with remarkably telling illustrations, many of a most humorous description; but some also, especially that representing Gordon "abandoned," give rise to feelings of the deepest pain, as they bring only too vividly before us the gross neglect of those who were responsible for the safety of the noble soldier shut up in Khartoum, but who has fallen a victim to their vacillation. Every page of this little book, too, overflows with genuine wit and humour. It will assuredly attain to as high a pinnacle of popularity as that to which its predecessor has risen.

We are especially glad to observe that Her Majesty's last book, *More Leaves from the Journal of a Life in the Highlands* (Smith, Elder, and Co.), has now been republished in a cheaper form. That there should be a demand for this reissue is an indication that the interest called forth by the volume extends far beyond the limits of those classes of the Queen's subjects who can afford to buy the more expensive edition of the work. It is a gratifying sign of the universal popularity of our gracious and beloved Sovereign, and a proof that loyalty and devotion to her person and her throne grow all the stronger at a time when both Queen and country are suffering from a common misfortune in the shape of the Gladstone Cabinet.

Mated with a Clown (F. V. White and Co.) is not, as might be supposed to the unthinking reader, a new theatrical story specially adapted to the pantomime season. It is a reprint of a novel by Lady Constance Howard, which we certainly should not have thought worth reprinting. The heroine is a beautiful girl sold in marriage by her father to a wealthy brute, while she is devoted to a detrimental who, of course, ultimately turns out to have been the far more eligible party of the two. There is nothing very new in this situation, which is in itself repellent to those who believe in the sanctities of the marriage vow. But the diabolical scheme of revenge which Gert Henniker concocts has more originality, though it is certainly not less repellent to the reader's taste. Indeed, the book is a thoroughly nasty one, and we can only wonder that it should have attained the honours of a second edition. For its nastiness is not redeemed by any literary merit which might lend it a superficial attraction. We should have liked, by the way, as a matter of detail, to have known in what terms the announcement in the *Morning Post*, which gladdens Rex's heart, at p. 296, was couched.

The new instalment of Messrs. Cassell's *Encyclopædic Dictionary* carries on the editor's laborious task from "Glot" to "Int." There is nothing new to be said about the editorial method, but we may be allowed to repeat the opinion which we have before expressed of the excellence of that method. Each fresh portion of his work—that now before us is the first half of the fourth volume—confirms that opinion, and the fulness and completeness of this valuable book of reference are only less striking than the wonderful cheapness of each part, considering what it contains. Of the merits of such a work it is impossible to give any adequate idea by selection or quotation. It must suffice to say that we believe all those who use it as it is intended to be used, as a complete work of reference to all words in use in the English language, whether for ordinary of for scientific terminology, will not be disappointed. Some critics speak disparagingly of the illustrations, but to our mind they are exceedingly useful as appealing to the eye, and often supplying the place of a good deal of verbal description. The real merits of such a book, as we have before said, are only to be tested by continual use, and doubtless each specialist will find some shortcoming in the words relating to his own art. But taken as a whole, it appears, for the purposes of the general reader, to be admirably done. It is a humiliating reflection for the reviewer that he should be brought face to face with so many words of the meaning of which he has not the slightest notion, but this only increases his admiration for the learned compiler of so much useful information. If we must needs be critical, we would call attention to the definitions of "hearse," none of which appear to include the word as used by Ben Jonson in his famous epitaph on "Sidney's sister."

Mr. Reginald Smith, barrister (of Lincoln's Inn), is the author of a useful guide to the *Yorkshire Registries Act*, 1884 (Clowes and Sons, London; Goodall and Suddick, Leeds). The changes in the law effected by this statute, which are far more extensive than is generally known, are explained in the Introduction. Then follows the Act itself, with notes, and the Rules made at the Quarter Sessions of the Three Ridings in virtue of its provisions, with the several forms required to be observed. All is carefully executed, and forms a complete manual, of no little value to landowners, mortgagees, and others interested in real property in this extensive county. We can cordially recommend it.

Well-conceived and well-constructed, displaying considerable dramatic power, is a tragedy entitled *The Death of Otho* (Kegan Paul and Co.), from the pen of Isaac B. Ginner. Its author owns the poetical faculty likewise, and is an adept both at blank verse and melodious and artful lyric. Many of the situations in the chief production are very powerful: several striking passages occur throughout it; and the art of leading up to the final catastrophe is at once apparent and commendable. It merits approbation for its display of undoubted grace and skill.

Young people who are fortunate enough to possess the yearly volume of *Little Folks* (Cassell's) can enjoy a rich literary treat. It is crowded with amusing stories and instructive articles on every conceivable subject of interest to little people, while the puzzle pages afford no end of amusement. The pictures, too, in which children of the youngest years take a special delight, are of the highest order and are very plentiful.

Another of the series of *Biographies of Working Men*, by Grant Allen, sets forth the lives of Telford, Stephenson, Herschel, Garfield, and others. The style is dry, hard, and unattractive, but the matter (being mainly facts) is not altogether uninteresting. It is mainly taken from other books—the researches and labours of special biographers having been "boiled down," as it were, by Mr. Grant Allen, B.A. Some people might call this literary piracy: but, in an enlightened and progressive age, when the difference between *meum* and *teum* is being cleverly disregarded and obliterated, no one need wonder nor complain. Some of Mr. Allen's opinions are marvellous, others almost unique—*e.g.* his opinion of Garfield. Throughout the volume there is no reference whatsoever to the Almighty Giver of all good gifts, nor any notice whatsoever of the importance and value of religion.

A truly graceful volume, *Boys Together* (Kegan Paul and Co.), has just appeared from the pen of Margaret Scott Taylor. If it be not powerful, it is at least melodious, interesting, and readable. There are many attractive thoughts embodied in pleasant rhyme throughout it, and some few telling and original similes. The first part is not by any means the best; but it is well written and touching. An observer of nature, an analyst of character, and a person possessed of the true religious instinct, the authoress—after practising the "Art of Blotting" with more vigour—will do something better. We commend her work, and merely add one word—"Persevere."

Mr. James Payn's novel *Thicker than Water* (Longmans) has already been noticed at length in our columns; it is only necessary, therefore, for us to record the fact that the story has lately been reissued in one volume, thus bringing the work within the reach of a wider circle of readers, who will greatly appreciate the opportunity afforded them of reading so good a story.

The current number of *Myra's Journal*, a magazine of fashion which is daily growing, and deservedly so, in popular favour, contains a full-sized paper pattern of the Mostyn paletot for a little girl, a diagram-sheet giving several useful patterns, all the newest Paris models of costumes for the present season, many valuable articles, and much miscellaneous reading.

Mr. Alfred Gurney's volume, *A Christmas Faggot* (Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co.), is one of rare excellence, a beautiful book, powerfully and gracefully written. Its author, the Vicar of St. Barnabas', Pimlico, possesses true poetical instincts, a melodious ear, the *ars poetica* in perfection; while he never destroys nor mars the reasonable influence of his elevating thoughts by ambiguity, obscurity, or puzzle-headedness. It contrasts well with the poets of the pig-and-gutter philosophy. Its frontispiece is a truly remarkable example of the best style of Christian art.

The tragedy *Anne Boleyn* (Kegan Paul and Co.) is very much above the average, and evidences not only tact, taste, and skill, but considerable dramatic power. We have read it from end to end with careful attention and interest; and both in its conception, plan, and arrangement can ungrudgingly give it high commendation. The blank verse is smooth, melodious, and clear—carrying its meaning upon its surface. The characters are well drawn, common traditions being followed. We are not certain that the author has truly gauged the characteristics of the heroine; but, on the whole, the drama is a fine and remarkable production—which for practical purposes it might be well for Mr. Irving or Mr. Wilson Barrett to read with a view to stage representation.

There is a certain amount of vigour and boldness of expression in a new dramatic poem, *Robert de Bruce* (Chapman and Hall), from the pen of Mr. D. Graham. But the half-lines, the imperfect rhythm, and the want of melodious flow frequently mar its artistic characteristics. Much of the language and phraseology is essentially modern; though the story is told with some taste, and occasionally there are evidences of the possession of real dramatic power and art. It needed more polish and sterner criticism.

The fact that the *French and English Dictionary* published by Messrs. Cassell and Co. has reached its 186th thousand practically dispenses with any necessity for recommending it. The large sale it has attained shows how thoroughly the public appreciates its excellence. The work is compiled from the best authorities, it has been repeatedly revised and corrected, and now supplies the student with an invaluable work of reference, cheap in price, compact in form, clearly printed on good paper, and bound strongly so as to resist the wear and tear that are the fate of a dictionary.

A second series of George Macdonald's *Unspoken Sermons* (Longmans) is to hand. In every respect the lectures are a valuable contribution to the class of literature of which they form a part, and

will be widely read and appreciated. Written as they are in a devout spirit, every word carries weight, and the lessons they teach will be easily understood by those who desire to seek the way of life.

In *Man's Departure and the Invisible World* (James Nisbet) Mr. G. H. H. Oliphant-Ferguson has brought together a goodly array of opinions and facts bearing on the subject of death and the future life, which have been diligently culled from the works and writings of many authors. The work will be perused with interest, containing, as it does, many extracts from the writings of some of our most learned divines.

Scenes from the Life of Jesus, by E. Lehmann (T. and T. Clarke), consists of a series of seven devotional lectures delivered in the house of the Union for the Inner Mission at Leipsic, of which the author is director. They were given some years since, and have recently been translated into English by Sophia Taylor, who has very ably performed her allotted task. We have presented in them the most familiar scenes in our Lord's life, so set forth as to make them attractive to persons of every class and age, and couched in language at once simple and impressive.

Old Crumpet, the Shoemaker (J. Masters and Co.), is an addition to the numerous admirable stories, thoroughly sound in tone and at the same time attractive to the reader for other reasons, for which we are indebted to Mrs. C. A. Jones. A preface to it is supplied by Canon Knox Little, who claims for the little story, so graphically told, that "it will interest those who "care much for the quiet hidden work among "souls which goes on by the efforts of the Church "in our great cities." The tribute which he pays to the merits of the story as "singularly simple "and touching," and "pervaded throughout by a "genuine Christian tone," will be echoed by all readers; while mission-workers will find much to comfort and encourage them in this record of silent, unobtrusive mission-work.

The *Indian Garden Series* in course of publication by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., of which the first volume has just appeared, is intended to reproduce in a compact and readable shape the writings, or extracts from the writings, published and unpublished, of Mr. Phil Robinson, well-known to most of us as the author of the popular work from which the series takes its title. That work is to be reprinted in the fourth number of the series, and pending its reproduction we are treated to a variety of tales and sketches not unworthy of it. *Chasing a Fortune* is the name of the first volume of the present issue, and though some of its contents strike us as old friends, this is probably owing to our having been attentive students of Mr. Phil Robinson's writings. Whether as old friends or new acquaintances, there is very much which is attractive in them. The author has a keen sense of humour which sometimes leads him to extravagance, but he has a no less keen eye for the various objects of interest, whether in the way of natural history or local customs, which he encounters in his wide wanderings in different parts of the world. Not the least attraction of the series, if we may judge from the first volume, is the manner in which it has been got up, and it is just one of the kind of books to put in one's pocket wherewith to beguile a spare five minutes' waiting.

It is quite too late in the day to give an elaborate review of Lord Malmesbury's interesting autobiography. We must content ourselves with acknowledging the receipt of a cheap edition of the *Memoirs of an ex-Minister*. By the publication of it Messrs. Longmans have conferred a decided benefit on the large numbers of readers who, appalled by the bulk and cost of the two volumes of the original edition, will be glad enough to place upon their shelves a more compact copy of so amusing a book.

There is much that is sound, valuable, and very practical in a volume of *The People's Library* entitled *The Guild of Good Life* (S.P.C.K.), by Dr. Richardson. But the author's discoveries are not new, while many of his maxims are perfectly well known, and very commonly followed, by thousands of experienced housewives and other sensible people. As regards food, clothing, pure air, warmth, and cleanliness, the book is full of wise and useful hints and directions. Its author is one of the least fanatical of the now numerous water-maniacs, but is very puzzling over a very simple subject—"A little wine for the stomach's "sake." Corn and wine and oil are all given us by God, and the use of each in moderation—notwithstanding Dr. Richardson—is good for us all. Many gormandisers gorge themselves on food of all sorts; but that is no reason why sensible people should cease to eat. The humbug of certain wild water-crazes is a very repulsive kind of humbug.

A delightful reprint of the volume of quaint stories originally published in 1792 by E. Newbery, of St. Paul's Churchyard, under the title of *The Looking-Glass for the Mind*, has just been issued by the modern successors of the Newberys, Messrs. Griffith and Farran. The present edition is an exact reproduction of the old one, as far as modern type will allow; while of the seventy-four actual wood-blocks designed by John Bewick for this work, the publishers have been able to use no less than fifty-three, the remaining twenty-one illustrations being reproduced in facsimile. The volume is printed on superior paper to that employed for the original edition, while the binding is characteristic of the end of the last century. Mr. Charles Welsh supplies a useful Introduction.

Under the title of *Helps to the Study of the Bible* (H. Frowde) the Oxford University Press has issued in a separate form the whole of the supplementary matter in the *Oxford Bible for Teachers*, which the Archbishops and Bishops of the English Church and other Biblical scholars have concurred in recommending. It includes notes analytical, chronological, historical, and geographical; notes on the Canon, the Versions, genealogies, tables of miracles and parables, and a harmony of the gospels; a Biblical index; a concordance; a dictionary of proper names; maps; a compendium of Scriptural natural history, and a vast amount of other useful information. A more helpful boon to students of Holy Scripture could not be imagined.

We can readily accord to the *Altar Hymnal* (Griffith, Farran, and Co.) the highest commendation as an aid to the Eucharistic Worship of the Church. It has been drawn up on a thoroughly sound basis and in a devout and faithful spirit, by hands thoroughly competent to the task. As the Preface tells us, all "merely subjective hymns and "pious musings have been invariably rejected," and we entirely concur in the judgment that they are "the bane of modern hymnology." It is a great advantage that the Introits, Graduals, Tracts, Sequences, Offertories, and Communions should be brought together in so compact a form. We are glad to observe that the compilers aim at a close adherence to the old English use. In cases where the Sarum Sequences were not available or were unsuitable it has been wisely determined to have recourse exclusively to ancient hymnology. Thus, for Advent Sunday, Neale's fine translation of the *Veni, veni, Emmanuel* is given; for Holy Innocents' Day an exceedingly sweet and melodious hymn specially adapted from a Latin original (C. F. Hernaman); and for the Conception of the B.V.M. Dr. Littledale's translation of *ὁ νἱὸς ὀδυρτὸς*. We specially congratulate the editors on the effective rendering (C. F. Hernaman) of the Sarum Sequence for Easter Day, to which an alternative is provided in Dr. Neale's peculiarly happy version of *Victimæ Paschali laudes*. Another spirited translation (E. H. Mitchell) from the Latin is given as a Sequence for the Dedication of a Church, and is perhaps to be preferred to the Sarum Sequence *Hierusalem et Syon filiæ*. Greater freedom in the choice of hymns at the Offertory, at the Consecration, and at the Ablutions has rightly been claimed. For the Offertory on Christmas Day we get a new composition (C. F. Hernaman) of singular beauty and appropriateness, and another new one of great merit (E. H. Mitchell) for All Saints' Day. A rich store of both modern and ancient Eucharistic hymns is provided for general use, including Dr. Bright's touchingly beautiful "And now, O Father," a hymn (C. F. Hernaman) for children, "Jesu, we "adore Thee," and Faber's well-known "Jesu, "my Lord, my God, my All." With regard to the last, the change from the first person singular to the plural may possibly be defended, though we think it unnecessary; but we must protest against the gratuitous alteration of the refrain to each verse. Dr. Neale appears to have made two versions of St. Thomas's *Adoro Te devote*; for besides the one here attributed to him (number 139), another is given as his in the *People's Hymnal*. Having said so much (and we might have said more) in praise of this excellent book, we venture to offer a few friendly criticisms. First, its utility would be much increased by a better arrangement of the running head-lines to the pages. Besides, "Proper of the Seasons," for example, we should put "Epiphany," "Lent," and so on. So to "Common of Saints" we should add "Martyrs," &c.; while the "Proper of Saints" might be marked throughout with the dates of the months. Next as to "Processionals," we must express our strong dislike of what we may call the theatrical kind (included even in such an excellent book as the *People's Hymnal*), of which "Swing the censer, "wave the banner" (number 2) is a specimen, and another (number 5) in which again allusions to "banners" are introduced. Neither of these, however, is as bad as a certain foolish Ritualistic hymn commencing "We march, we march to "victory," in which occurs the line "We tread to "the roll of the organ-swell," with more of the same kind to be met with in the *People's Hymnal*. We are disposed to think that hymn number 102 is hardly up to its author's usually high level, though that of course is a matter of taste. But our chief grievance is the treatment meted out to what is perhaps the most beautiful hymn ever written, St. Bernard's *Jesu dulcis memoria*. Not only has it been ousted from its place as Sequence for the Feast of the Holy Name (although to be replaced, we acknowledge, by a hymn of great intrinsic merit), but it is clipped of nearly all its verses. Then, why are two versions given of *Tantum ergo* (numbers 111 and 136)? It is bad enough to meet with different versions in different books, but to find different versions in one book is intolerable. We are also disposed to grumble at the alterations of Faber's lovely hymn "Holy Ghost, come down "upon Thy children," as wholly unjustifiable. On the other hand, we cordially appreciate the boon of a full and uncurtailed version, by Oakeley, of the *Adeste fideles*. The form in which the *Veni Creator* is given is fairly accurate as a translation; but hardly one of the versions yet published gives adequately the force of the original. One of the best, from the pen of Mr. Bramley of Magdalen (and since, we believe, revised), was published in 1858 in a volume of Hymns for Use in the Services of the Church. Lastly, we do not see on what principle it is right to observe the feasts of Corpus Christi and All Souls' that does not also cover the case of the Assumption. Many Churchmen, too, are in the habit of commemorating St. Thomas à Becket, both of whose festivals were arbitrarily suppressed by Henry VIII.; and some notice of him in a book of this kind would no doubt be appreciated. The blemishes we have indicated are comparatively small, and could be easily rectified in a second edition. Of the book as a whole we find it difficult to speak too highly.

Correspondence.

IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES GEORGE GORDON

To the Editor of the John Bull.

Sir,—Much has been said and written as to a memorial being raised to the memory of the late General Gordon. Permit me to urge in a few words that whatever may be decided upon as a "National Memorial," and however much the greatly needed "Ladies' National Aid Association" may help our brave fellows to endure the hardships and privations of a life in the deserts of Africa, there is a strong feeling with many that a very suitable way of commemorating the love and respect held for our late noble comrade, so justly called "The King of Men," is to establish a fund for providing Army Scripture-readers to take the word of the living God amongst the soldiers. Charles Gordon was essentially a reader of that Word, and his desire ever was to convey the guide to eternal life through the Holy Spirit's teaching to all his comrades. £3,000 raised will enable the Army Scripture-readers' Society to place at least two readers permanently among the British forces—and this Society works under the authority of commanding officers, and with the superintendence of recognised chaplains. Sums have already been received for the "Gordon Readers," others are invited, and in due time a list shall be furnished. Receipts and information will be gladly given by the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Blake, at the office, as well as by

Yours truly,
J. W. F. SANDWITH, Colonel, Hon. Sec.
4, *Trafalgar-square, Charing-cross, March*, 1885.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. W. Beck, to Rectory of Broughton Sulney, Notts. Patron, Mrs. Ann Charnock.

Rev. E. K. Bennet, Rector of Brettenham-with-Rushford, to Rectory of Buswell, Norfolk. Patron, Sir Robert Jacob Buxton, Bart, M.P.

Rev. E. J. Bower, Rector of Woolton, Liverpool, to Vicarage of the Church of the Holy Apostles, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham Patrons, Mrs. Sandes and others.

Rev. E. S. Carpenter, to Rectory of Hints. Patron, Mr. J. Chadwick.

Rev. H. H. Chamberlain, Vicar of Godmanchester, to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Ely.

Rev. L. J. T. Darwall, Chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford, to Vicarage of Walton, Cheshire. Patron, Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart.

Rev. R. H. C. Fitzherbert, to Rectory of Somersal Herbert, Derbyshire. Patron, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Henry Fitzherbert.

Rev. J. Forbes, to Rectory of Shadoxhurst, near Ashford, Kent. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. A. Foster-Melliar, Curate-in-Charge of Tostock, Bury St. Edmunds, to Rectory of Sproughton, near Ipswich. Patron, the Marquis of Bristol.

Rev. E. S. Hall, Chaplain at Kadikeui, Constantinople, to be Chaplain of H.M.'s Bombay Establishment.

Rev. J. Hamley, to be Curate in Sole Charge of Cardynham, Bodmin, Cornwall.

Rev. F. H. A. Hawkins, to Vicarage of All Souls', Claptonpark.

Rev. F. D. Horner, Burton-in-Lonsdale, Yorkshire, to be Licensed Preacher in the Diocese of Ripon.

Very Rev. W. W. Howard, Dean of Stamford, to be Prebendary of Marston St. Lawrence, in Lincoln Cathedral.

Rev. G. J. Johnson, to be Curate of Barton-upon-Humber.

Rev. E. Johnston, to be Perpetual Curate of St. John's, Hebburn. Patron, the Crown, alternately with the Bishop of Durham.

Rev. W. J. Locke, Incumbent of Calder Vale, near Garstang, to Vicarage of Overton. Patron, the Vicar of Lancaster.

Rev. A. Lowe, to be Perpetual Curate of Rangemore. Patron, Sir Arthur Bass, Bart.

Rev. E. A. Morgan, Curate of Harrow-on-the-Hill, to Rectory of St. John's and Vicar of St. Lawrence's, Ilketshall, Lungay. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. J. Pycock, to Vicarage of All Saints', Huntingdon, and Surrogate for the Diocese of Ely.

Rev. J. G. Richardson, to Perpetual Curacy of St. John's, Darlington. Patron, the Crown, alternately with the Bishop of Durham.

Rev. J. C. Rust, Vicar of Soham, to Rural Deanery of Fordham, Cambs.

Rev. T. J. Scott, late Consulate Chaplain of Malaga, to Rectory of Marksbury, Somerset. Patron, Mr. E. L. Popham.

Rev. N. J. Spicer, Rector of Wonston, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Hants.

Rev. W. J. Stavert, Assistant-Curate of St. Andrew's, Wells-street, to be Chaplain to the Earl of Craven.

Rev. W. Tomkins, to Vicarage of Sherborne.

Rev. W. F. W. Torre, to Vicarage of Northfleet, Kent. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. T. Willing, to Vicarage of North-hill, Launceston.

Rev. H. B. Wolryche-Whitmore, to Rectory of Quatt. Patron, the Rev. F. H. W. Whitmore.

Rev. E. R. Yerburgh, Curate of Kimpton, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Suffolk.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of London.—Revs. C. O. Becker, to St. Barnabas', Pimlico; R. C. Bomford, to St. Peter's, Saffron-hill, Holborn; G. T. Crowther, to St. John-the-Evangelist's, Drury-lane; H. W. Dennis, to St. Philip's, Regent-street; R. G. Dutton, to St. Martin-in-the-Fields; T. George, to St. Barnabas', Islington; R. E. Giraud, to St. Matthew's, Westminster; W. Glenn, to St. Luke's, Kilburn; H. W. Goodhart, to St. George-in-the-East; J. W. B. Haslam, to St. Matthias', Stoke Newington; W. Hayes, to St. Mary's, Poplar; C. A. C. Langdon, to St. Paul's, Canonbury; A. M. Mackay, to St. John-the-Evangelist's, Fitzroy-square; S. A. A. Majendie, to St. Paul's, Knightsbridge; H. F. Maltby, to Holy Trinity, Dalston; H. L. Noroen, to Staines; R. W. Leaver, to Christ Church, Highbury; W. E. Sims, to Christ Church, Turnham-green; S. Smyth, to St. Paul's, Clerkenwell; M. N. Walde, to Emmanuel's, Maida-vale.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Durham.—Revs. Alfred Boot, B.A., to St. Margaret's, Durham; James Albert Bottomley, to St. Mark's, South Shields; Frederick Selincourt Colman, B.A., to Christ Church, West Hartlepool; Thomas Edward Guard Condell, to St. Mark's, South Shields; James Marmaduke Hick, M.A., to Whickham; William John Syms, to St. Luke's, Pallion.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Bangor.—Revs. David Jones, to Machynlleth; Richard Jones, to Llanfair, P.G.; Thomas Jesse Jones, to Llandudno; William Owen, to Llangelynin.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Liverpool.—Rev. Edmund Henry Williams Barry, to St. John-the-Divine, Fairfield.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Manchester.—Rev. Charles Jones, B.A., to St. John-the-Evangelist, Cheetham.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Rochester.—Rev. Edward Smith, to Gillingham.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Salisbury.—Revs. Charles Edward Unwin, B.A., to Stalybridge; Richard Gellibrand Wood, M.A., to Winterbourne Stoke.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Southwell.—Revs. Arthur Collier, to Plumtree; Arthur Thomas Fisher, to St. Ann's, Nottingham; Edmund Silvester Hore, M.A., to St. Andrew's, Nottingham; Charles Robert Round, to Ripley.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Worcester.—Rev. R. B. Caton, M.A., to Powick.

OBITUARY.

Jan. 30, returning from New Zealand in the *Otaki*, the Rev. C. Villiers Layard, s n of the Rev. Clementi Layard, of Turleigh House, Wilts, aged 35.

Feb. 22, at St. Augustine's, Modderpoort, diocese of Bloemfontein, the Rev. Canon Beckett, late Superior of the Brotherhood.

March 26, at St. Andrew's Rectory, near Cardiff, the Rev. Isaac Domere Jenkins, LL.B., aged 67.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGIATE.

OXFORD.

In a Congregation held on Saturday, the last day of term the following degrees were conferred:—

D.D.—Rev. E. Bartrum, Pembroke; Rev. R. W. Hiley, St. Mary Hall.

B.D.—Rev. E. Bartrum, Pembroke; Rev. R. W. Hiley, St Mary Hall

B.C.L.—A. P. Moore, Wadham.

M.A.—T. L. Leighton, University; A. H. Fowles, Exeter; F. C. Montague, Oriel; W. G. Gregory, Queen's; E. J. Pigott, Lincoln; Rev. J. H. Scott, St. Mary Hall.

B.A.—R. H. Logan, Balliol; A. L. Glover, Merton; J. H. Newton, Exeter; R. H. Bevan, Brasenose; C. F. Baines, Wadham; F. H. K. Davis, St. Edmund Hall; G. R. Gilling-Lax, Charsley's Hall; E. Milliken, Brasenose; F. C. Lovely, non-collegiate.

Congregations will be held for the purpose of granting graces and conferring degrees in next (Easter) term on Wednesday, April 8, Thursday, April 30, and Friday, May 22.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has, upon the petition of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, supported by the recommendation of the Bishop of Lichfield, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Scarsdale, Canon Greenwell, and many eminent archæological and ecclesiological authorities, conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws on the Rev. John Charles Cox, of Enville, near Stourbridge, Stafford, in recognition of the antiquarian knowledge and diligent research which he has expended in examining, arranging, and tabulating the valuable ancient monuments of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, as well as in the authorship and publication of standard books on *The Churches of Derbyshire*, *All Saints', Derby* and other well-known archæological works.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint the Bishop of London to be Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal.

The Bishop of London will hold a Confirmation at St. Alban's, Holborn, on Monday, May the 18th, at 7.30 p.m.

Dr. Liddon, being the Canon-in-residence during April, will occupy the pulpit in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday afternoons.

The Rev. Canon Machell, rector of Ross, near Hull, Yorkshire, has been elected a Proctor in Convocation for the East Riding of York, in the room of the late Canon Simmons.

The enthronement of the Bishop-elect of London (Dr. Temple) has been fixed to take place in St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday next at 10.30 a.m.

Mrs. Temple, the wife of the Bishop of London, was, at Exeter on the 27th ult., presented with a service of plate and three diamond stars, subscribed for by "women of Devonshire," as a memento of their goodwill.

We regret to state that the Bishop of Peterborough is again seriously ill, suffering from an attack of jaundice. The report of the medical attendant (Dr. S. J. Walker), on Monday, stated that "the fever, which was high last night, has somewhat decreased."

The Rev. E. S. Talbot, Warden of Keble College, Oxford, who was taken ill at the end of term, has since undergone an operation, which was performed by Mr. Sankey, under the superintendence of Sir J. Paget and Sir H. Acland. A material improvement has taken place in his condition.

Dr. Hughes, Bishop of St. Asaph, is still suffering from the effects of a severe attack of jaundice and other symptoms, at the Palace, St. Asaph. Mrs. Hughes is also seriously ill.

The consecration of the Rev. W. Thornhill Webber as Bishop of Brisbane will probably take place, with the other Bishops, in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 25th inst. (St. Mark's Day), when Dr. Liddon is to preach.

The Dean and Chapter of Exeter have received the *congé d'elire* to elect a Bishop for the diocese in the place of Dr. Temple, appointed Bishop of London, and recommending Dean Bickersteth as his Lordship's successor. The Deans, Canons, and Prebendaries have been summoned to attend the Chapter-house on the 7th inst. to proceed to the election.

In a memorial just forwarded to the Queen, the Council of the Church Association protest against the appointment of Canon King to the See of Lincoln on the ground of his opinions respecting the Eucharist, Confession, and Absolution. The memorialists pray for an inquiry into the truth of their allegations in order that her Majesty may recommend for election "a learned divine whose doctrine, teaching, and ceremonial practices are within the limits prescribed by the Protestant Reformed Religion Established by Law."

The quaint old church of Penningley, Notts, was reopened on Thursday, the 26th ult., by the new Bishop of Southwell (Dr. Ridding), who preached an appropriate sermon from the three last words of the 28th Psalm: "Walk about Zion," and who publicly received the daughter of the rector (Rev. T. Howey) into the Church after the reading of the second lesson. In the hands of Mr. C. Hodgson Fowler, of Durham, the old church has been thoroughly restored, all points being retained. Nothing is known of the foundation, but it is supposed to be before the Conquest, the south porch being a fine specimen of Saxon work; the western tower, probably 1180, opening to the nave by double doors; the chancel is a fine example of Early Decorated. Under the south window are triple sedilia and double piscina, the chancel arch showing signs of fire. On the oak altar frame has been placed the original stone mensa found in relaying the floor. Old oak pulpit bears the date "1604, Thomas Patrick." The south porch has been entirely rebuilt, and inside are inserted some fine incised grave covers to show designs, having been found built in the brickwork; total cost being £1,380.

The Church of Scotland Disestablishment Bill, 1885, which has been brought in by Mr. Peddie, Mr. Webster, Dr. Cameron, Mr. Henderson, and Mr. M'Laren, disestablishes the Church of Scotland on the 1st of January, 1887; but its ministers may continue to occupy their manses and glebes till Whit Sunday, 1887, and also subsequently, on certain conditions. The churches may also continue to be occupied by the present congregations, on payment of a fair rent. The property of which the Church now receives the benefit is to be transferred to Commissioners, who are to compensate ministers

and others and to have the management of churches, except those belonging to burgh corporations. Provision is made for the commutation of the liability of the unexhausted teinds for augmentation of stipends. Trusts created within the last forty years, other than for *quoad sacra* churches or parishes, are not to be transferred to the Commissioners. Property given by living donors may be vested in them, and property derived partly from private persons and partly from public funds may be vested in trustees for the benefit of congregations on certain terms. Ministers are to be compensated by receiving annuities, to be determined by the net yearly value of their offices, and by the age of the holders. The patrons are to be compensated according to the terms of the Patronage Act (37 and 38 Vict. c. 82). Churches and manses and glebes may be let, leased, or sold for an adequate consideration, but preference is to be given to existing occupants. The surplus is to be applied to the relief of educational fees and rates, or for other purposes of necessity or utility, as Parliament may hereafter determine. The Bill does not interfere with the organisation or discipline of the Church of Scotland.

We last week inserted a paragraph to the effect that Bishop Beckles was employing himself in administering the rite of Confirmation in one of the three schismatical chapels in Scotland. We think it well, in consequence, to reprint the late Bishop of London's letter on the subject. No words of ours (says the *Church Times*) can add force to Bishop Jackson's sensible and emphatic utterances:—"*London House, St. James's-square, S.W., April* 13, 1881. Dear Sir,—I am almost surprised that you are not aware of the censure which was passed on Bishop Beckles by myself and other Bishops in Convocation at the time he accepted the offer of the 'English Church' in Scotland of the superintendence of their congregation. Had you read the debate then, and the correspondence in the newspapers, you would have learned that entirely as we disapprove his action, we have no power either to prevent it or to visit it with any penalty. He holds, unfortunately, a poor benefice in the east of London, which he obtained by exchange in 1873; but though under my jurisdiction as incumbent he is not under it as Bishop, and I have no more power to prevent him from spending the time during which the law allows him to be absent from his benefice in confirming than I have to prevent him from employing it in salmon-fishing. If advice or expostulation had any effect on him you would have had no occasion to complain. They have certainly not been spared.—I am, dear sir, your faithful servant, J. LONDON. Rev. Alfred Pullin."

At the Chapel Royal, Savoy, the preachers appointed for the present month are as follows:—5th, morning, the Rev. Henry White—evening, the Rev. Gordon Calthrop, vicar of St. Augustine's, Highbury; 12th, morning, the Rev. Henry White—evening, the Rev. E. C. Escreet, vicar of St. Andrew's, Stockwell; 19th, morning, the Rev. Henry White—evening, the Rev. A. G. Bowman, vicar of St. Andrew's, Westminster; 26th, morning, the Rev. W. P. Pearce, Chaplain of St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne—evening, the Rev. E. Price, Minor Canon of Westminster Abbey.

At St. Paul's Cathedral, during the present month, the following will be the preachers:—5th, morning, the Dean—evening, the Rev. Canon Mason, rector of Allhallows Barking, City; 12th, morning, the Rev. Prebendary Wilson, vicar of Islington—evening, the Rev. C. Hook, vicar of All Souls', Leeds; 19th, morning, the Rev. Prebendary Rogers, vicar of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate—evening, the Rev. A. T. Lloyd, vicar of Newcastle; 26th, morning, the Rev. C. T. Procter, vicar of Richmond—evening, the Rev. J. Storrs, vicar of St. Peter's, Pimlico. The Rev. Dr. Liddon will preach on Sunday afternoons as Canon in residence for the month.

THE COURT.

The Queen and the Royal Family and the members of Her Majesty's household attended Divine service in the private chapel of Windsor Castle on Sunday. The Very Rev. R. Davidson, Dean of Windsor, assisted by the Rev. Canon E. Capel Cure, M.A., rector of St. George's, Hanover-square, officiated. The Rev. Canon Cure preached the sermon.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice and Princess Louis of Battenberg and the infant Princess, left the Castle at four o'clock in the afternoon for Portsmouth, where Her Majesty embarked on the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* for Cherbourg, *en route* to Aix-les-Bains.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Her Majesty's Minor Bounty, Discretionary Bounty, and the Royal Gate Alms were, in accordance with ancient usage, distributed at the Royal Almonry, in Spring-gardens, on Friday and Saturday last, and on Monday and Tuesday in the current week, to aged, disabled, and meritorious persons, previously recommended by the clergy of the various parishes in and round the metropolis. There were over 1,300 persons relieved.

The committee which was recently appointed to consider the best means of perpetuating the memory of General Gordon in Gravesend have, after much deliberation, resolved to erect a home for poor boys at Gravesend, and, in the event of there being a sum left in hand after the completion of that undertaking, to devote the money to a fund for providing a public recreation ground.

At Marlborough House on Monday the Prince of Wales presided at the first meeting of the Royal Commission appointed by the Queen to organise the Indian and Colonial Exhibition, 1886, and in an exhaustive address dwelt upon the national and Imperial character of the project, for which a guarantee fund of £128,600 had already been subscribed. The Prince said that as President of the Commission he purposed taking as active a share in the work as he had done at the Paris Exhibition of 1878. He proposed the appointment of a finance committee. The Earl of Derby moved a resolution approving of what the Prince had done, and thanking him for the interest he had taken in the undertaking. The Earl of Kimberley seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

The High Commissioner of Canada states that Her Majesty's Government have informed him that the Arctic ship *Alert*, when returned by the Government of the United States to the Admiralty at Halifax, will be placed at the disposal of the Canadian Government, for the purpose of continuing the exploration in which they are now engaged of the Hudson Bay and Straits.

The will of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Joseph Phillimore, P.C., D.C.L., late of 5, Arlington-street, and of the Coppice, Henley-on-Thames, was proved on the 10th ult. by Dame Charlotte Anne Phillimore, the widow, and Sir Walter George Frank Phillimore, D.C.L., the surviving executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to over £9,000. The testator bequeaths a box of plate to his three daughters and £500 each. Subject thereto, he leaves all his property, real and personal, upon trust, for his wife for life; at her death he gives £5,000 to each of his daughters, and the ultimate residue of his property to his said son.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—"I hear that the result of the deliberations of a committee of Post Office officials on the question of postage-stamps is a recommendation to substitute for the present sombre-coloured stamps others of easily distinguishable colours, such as those used by most foreign countries. The departmental committee has, I understand, made a tour of the Continent, and has gathered much valuable information from the stamp-manufacturing establishments of Germany, Austria, and particularly of France. It is well to remember that these countries make far greater use of adhesive Government stamps than we do; since by this means they levy a considerable amount of taxation, such as the taxes on foreign newspapers in Austria and on the posting of placards in France. They have, consequently, much experience in this way. It is expected that the Postmaster-General will shortly be in a position to state when the new arrangements will be put in force. The scheme is, I hear, to have bright colours, such as pink, blue, red, and green for stamps of his lowest value, and dark colours for the higher sums."

At a special meeting of the Poole Town Council on Monday it was resolved *nem. con.* to request Mr. Whitworth, M.P., to withdraw the statement made by him against the Poole Corporation in a letter to the *Daily News*, and to apologise for the same. In the event of his declining to do so, the resolution directed the Town Clerk to lay an information against him for libel. It was eventually decided to omit the latter part, the Council being convinced that on learning the facts of the case Mr. Whitworth would at once comply with the request. Alderman Norton's statements against the Watch Committee were denied, and he was told that, if he would take the words "private and confidential" off the list of complaints, a public inquiry would take place.

The Alexandra Palace was reopened on Tuesday with considerable ceremony as an International Exhibition. The proceedings commenced with a luncheon in the Banqueting-hall, at which nearly 2,000 people were present, and over which Lord George Hamilton presided. Immediately after this Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" was performed by a choir and orchestra numbering 600 voices, under the *bâton* of Mr. Mount. This was the chief feature of his day's proceedings. Towards the end of the programme an address was presented to Lord George Hamilton by Mr. Levey, who said the enterprise was not intended to compete with the exhibition at South Kensington. Lord George Hamilton then, amid applause, declared the exhibition open.

The committee appointed by the House of Commons to decide on the subject of the four statues on the four vacant corners of Blackfriars-bridge have offered twelve select men for the City's acceptance, and from these four were finally to be chosen. Alfred the Great, Harold, Richard I., Edward I., Edward III., the Black Prince, Henry V., Cromwell, St. George of England, St. Andrew of Scotland, St. Patrick of Ireland, and St. David of Wales. Of this group of candidates Richard I. and Henry V. were most in favour. Then came Alfred, Harold, the Black Prince, and Cromwell, or Edward III., and last of all our four patron saints. These selections, says a contemporary, read something like the lists of a sporting prophet, or the enumerations of our twelve greatest men on whom the suffrages of the purchasers of Christmas numbers are sometimes bestowed. The report, we are not sorry to say, was not accepted. Some of the speakers expressed a wish for General Gordon's statue; others considered Shakespeare, Milton, Whittington, Gresham, Livingstone, and John Carpenter as the personages whom the City ought to honour. At last, amid general approbation, the report was referred back to the committee for reconsideration, though, after having spent more than three months over it, the presumption is that they have nothing more to consider.

The following epitaph on General Gordon is published in the new number of the *Journal of Education*. The verses are signed "E. D. A. M." under which initials we have no doubt that we recognise Mr. E. D. A. Morshead, formerly Fellow of New College, and now an assistant master at Winchester:—

FOR THE GRAVE OF GORDON.

"I had rather be dead than praised."—C. G. G.

By those for whom he lived, he died; his land
Awoke too late and crowned dead brows with praise.
He, 'neath the blue that burns o'er Libyan sand,
Put off the burden of heroic days.
There, strong by death, by failure glorified,
O never proud in life, lie down in pride!

There are some personal reminiscences of General Gordon in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century* which, though slight enough, are yet interesting from their obvious sincerity. Mr. Stannard, who contributes them, was assistant to the manager of the contractors for the fortifications at Gravesend, and his recollections, while completely agreeing with what is known from other sources of Gordon's noble life of self-sacrifice there, yet serve to remind us that Gordon was not one of those colourless saints who are unredeemed by a single human weakness. Of the familiar side of the picture, here is a charming passage. Gordon's house was already as full of poor boys as it could hold, when another ragamuffin applied for admittance. He was put up accordingly in an empty stall in the stable, and at six o'clock sharp next morning "the Colonel made his appearance, carrying a lump of soap, a bath towel, a brush and sponge. He called the little vagabond out into the yard, and having poured a pail of hot water into the trough, he then and there stripped his young friend and gave him a thorough cleansing from head to foot."

Miss Elizabeth Crombie Duthie, the lady who recentiy gave to the city of Aberdeen the public park which bears her name, died on Monday morning, aged 65. The Duthie Park was opened by Princess Beatrice in September, 1883. Miss Duthie, who is the last lineal representative of her family, has bequeathed her fortune to the public institutions of Aberdeen.

The trial of Mrs. Georgina Weldon for writing and publishing a series of libels upon M. Rivière, the manager of the Covent Garden Promenade Concerts, was concluded at the Central Criminal Court on Monday, when, after having addressed the jury, Mrs. Weldon was found guilty and sentenced to six months' imprisonment without hard labour, and to enter into her own recognisance in £50, and find two sureties in £25 each, to keep the peace for two years.

Mr. Justice North on Wednesday gave judgment in the action brought by Mr. Whitestone, an "angel" in the Irvingite Church, to establish his right to a share in the fund raised by voluntary tithes among the members of that body. He decided that there was no trust with respect to the tithes which he could enforce; but he made no order as to costs, on the defendants undertaking not to place Mr. Whitestone's name on the "Register of the Lapsed," and admitting that they had no power to expel him from the Society.

A statement has been drawn up at the instance of the Vestry of St. James's, Westminster, with the view of further directing and concentrating public attention on the subject of the great cost of administration of the London School Board. In this statement a comparative view is given of the expenditure of the School Board during the last and previous half-years, of the cost per child for school maintenance, the number of scholars in average attendance, and other matters. It is shown that, contrary to what might have been anticipated, the cost per child per annum has increased with the larger number of scholars in average attendance; thus, at Michaelmas, 1874, with an average attendance of 53,130, the gross cost per child was £2 5s. 5d., and the net cost £1 11s. 9d.; while at the same term in 1883, when the number in average attendance had risen to 252,816, the gross cost was £2 17s. 5d., and the net cost £1 13s. 7d. The largest increase in the expenditure occurs in the item of teachers' salaries, this having risen in the ten years referred to from £1 7s. 6d. per child to £2 3s. 8d. The total expenditure of the Board, including cost of administration and payment of interest and instalments of principal of loans, but excluding payments in respect of industrial schools and charges defrayed from loans, such as purchase of sites and erection of buildings, was £1,076,267 7s. 10d. for the twelve months ended March 25, 1884. The number of scholars in average attendance is not given in the accounts subsequently to September, 1883; but, taking the average for the twelve months at 250,000, the gross actual cost per child on this basis would be £4 6s. 1d. This expenditure was met by the Government grants, £166,125 6s. 7d.; school fees, £109,430 10s. 10d.; rates, £762,834 17s. 3d.; and from other sources, £4,485 3s. 11d. It will thus be seen that the rates bore nearly 75 per cent. of the expenditure, and the taxes (in the form of Government grants) about 15 per cent., while the scholars contributed only about 10 per cent. A statement of the amount paid to the School Board by the ratepayers of St. James's, Westminster, each year since the constitution of the Board shows that the precept for the year 1871 was £1,047 7s. 10d., and in 1877 it had grown to £12,364 7s. 4d., and that in 1884 the precept was £22,328 0s. 2d. The result of the action of the School Board in the parish of St. James's has, it is submitted, proved most unsatisfactory, the number of children educated in public Elementary schools being actually less now than (taking the Craven schools into account, but without reckoning the private venture schools which have been discontinued) before the erection of the Pulteney school at a cost of £33,091 13s. 5d., or more than £33 per seat. The Vestry of St. James's, Westminster, invite each vestry and District Board of Works in the metropolis to send representatives to a conference to be held at the Mansion House on April 27, to discuss the whole question of School Board administration and expenditure.

The University Boat Race was rowed on Saturday over the usual course from Putney to Mortlake, and resulted in a victory for Oxford. The choice of stations was early decided in favour of Oxford by the customary toss. At a quarter-past twelve Oxford put off from the London Boat-house, and paddled against the stream. The crew were loudly cheered from the Oxford station. Cambridge followed a few minutes later. Embarking calmly and quietly, they also were greeted with warmth. The Dark Blues chose the Surrey station, and were promptly in position at their moored skiff, being followed two or three minutes later by their rivals. Shortly before half-past twelve all was ready for the start. The wind was blowing lightly from the north-east, and the course was beautifully clear to the bend. As nearly as possible to the half-hour the word "Go" was given. Oxford getting the first dip of the water. Both went off at great speed, Cambridge having, along the Concrete Wall, about half a length to the good. At the first turn at the steps the time was 1 min. 35 secs., and here both crews steered well across towards the Surrey shore. Nearing the Crab Tree the Light Blues held their lead; but Oxford made an effort off Walden's, and reduced it. At the bottom of Rosebank Oxford forged in front, and took a lead of half a length, rowing with great power and regularity. The Cambridge stroke appeared to lack determination, and the steering was not first-class. Oxford retained their lead to Hammersmith Bridge, where they were a length and a half ahead. The bridge was shot by Oxford in 7min. 43secs. from the start. Immediately after passing this point the advantage of station commenced to tell, and Oxford further improved their already considerable lead. For the first time in the history of the race boats were moored to decide the course to be taken by either crew so as to equalise as far as possible the two stations. Opposite Chiswick Oxford showed a clear lead of a length and a half, which was increased at Thorneycroft's to three lengths. The leading crew were completely under self-command, while the Cambridge men appeared to be quite demoralised and a thoroughly beaten eight. Their style was not by any means up to University form, whereas their opponents were rowing faultlessly. There was a difference of 10sec. at Barnes-bridge, which was passed by Oxford in 16min. 15sec. from the start. In the straight row home Cambridge made a despairing effect, which died away in a few strokes, and only had the result of sending their rivals away at a more rapid pace. At the Brewery, the water being lumpy, Oxford made one or two mistakes; but the Light Blues were too far in the rear to take advantage of this incident. The end was a very easy win for Oxford, who paddled in some four lengths in advance of an exhausted and thoroughly beaten crew. The time, as taken by Benson's chronograph, was 21min. 36sec. The time last year was 21min. 39sec. The following are the names of the crews:—Cambridge—Bow, N. P. Symonds, Lady Margaret; 2. W. K. Hardacre, Trinity Hall; 3. W. H. W. Perrott, First Trinity; 4. S. Swann, Trinity Hall; 5. E. F. Churchill, Third Trinity; 6. E. W. Haig, Third Trinity; 7. R. H. Coke, Trinity Hall; stroke, F. J. Pitman, Third Trinity; coxswain, G. Wilson, First Trinity. Oxford—Bow, W. S. Unwin, Magdalen; 2. J. S. Clemons, Corpus; 3. P. W. Taylor, Lincoln; 4. C. R. Carter, Corpus; 5. H. Maclean, New; 6. F. O. Wethered, Christ Church; 7. D. H. Maclean, New; stroke, H. Girdlestone, Magdalen; coxswain, F. J. Humphries, Brasenose.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending March 28 was—medical 332, surgical 166; total 498 of which 344 were new cases.

Anyone afflicted with stammering or stuttering should read a little book (written by a gentleman who cured himself after suffering for more than thirty years), to be had from the Author, Mr. B. Beasley, Green Bank House, Hall Green, near Birmingnam, for 13 stamps.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s. 1½d., labelled, "JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

BIRTHS.

March 25, at 3, Granville-terrace, S.W., the wife of the Rev. JOHNSON BARKER (of St. Faith's, Wandsworth), of a son.

March 28, at Westward Ho! the wife of the Rev. G. WILLES, of a son.

March 28, at Hyde Vicarage, Winchester, the wife of the Rev. ALFRED R. WISEMAN, M.A., of a son.

March 29, at the Parsonage, Pidley, Huntingdon, the wife of the Rev. CHARLES S. BEACHCROFT, of a son.

March 29, at 3, Collingham-gardens, South Kensington, the wife of ALEXANDER MACGREGOR, of a daughter.

March 29, at Enys-road, Eastbourne, the wife of T. E. BLUNDELL, of a son.

March 29 (Palm Sunday), at 22, Gildredge-road, Eastbourne, the wife of the Rev. SILVANUS KEY BORTON, M.A., of a daughter.

March 30, at 19, Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, the wife of the Rev. Canon TUGWELL, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

March 24, at St. Stephen's Church, Paddington, the Rev. CECIL MAY, M.A., of East Cliff, Woolstan, Southampton, to ADA MARY, eldest daughter of JOHN FORT, of 9, St. Stephen's-crescent, Westbourne-park.

March 24, at St. Mark's, North Audley-street, Captain HUGH CHOLMONDELEY, Rifle Brigade, to MARY PAYNE TOWNSHEND, daughter of the late Mr. Payne Townshend, of Derry, Rosscarbery, county Cork.

March 25, at St. Mark's, Kennington, JOHN WILLIAM HARRISSON, M.B., son of E. Harrisson, Esq., of Sandwich, to CHARLOTTE EMILY, daughter of the late Dr. FREEBORN, of Oxford.

March 25, at All Saints', St. Helier's, Jersey, JOHN FRANCIS SIMON, of Monte Bello, Jersey, to FLORENCE ELLEN, daughter of the Rev. RICHARD BELLIS, Vicar of All Saints', St. Helier's, Jersey.

March 26, at Lambeth Parish Church, HENRY RICHARD RISING, Esq., to CATHERINE MARY, eldest surviving child of the Rev. HERBERT PETER KENDALL, M.A., Canon, Vicar of Loxley, Warwickshire.

DEATHS.

March 22, at Madras, Sir VERE LEVINGE, Bart.

March 24, at Matlock, the Rev. JOSEPH BURNS, of the Religious Tract Society.

March 25, at Orielton, Pembrokeshire, MARK ANTONY SAURIN, Esq., youngest son of the late Right Rev. James Saurin, D.D., Lord Bishop of Dromore.

March 25, suddenly, at her mother's residence, 24, Victoria-road, Clapham-common, FRANCES PENELOPE, wife of the Rev. HENRY VENN HEBERT, Vicar of Sevenhampton, Gloucestershire.

March 26, at Oundle, MARY, relict of the Rev. JOHN SHILLIBEER, M.A., in her 91st year.

March 26, at 10, South Audley-street, ALICE, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel INIGO-JONES.

March 27, at 69, Warwick-gardens, Kensington, ELIZA CATHARINA, widow of the late Rev. EDWARD GEORGE BOYS, Vicar of River, near Dover, aged 74 years.

March 27, at Claughton Vicarage, Birkenhead, TEMPERANCE ELLEN, the beloved wife of the Rev. Canon ROBSON, aged 57 years.

March 27, at the Vicarage, Chesterton, Cambridge, SAMUEL JOHN SHELBROOKE, son of the Rev. SAMUEL EDGAR PERRY, Vicar, aged nearly two.

March 30, at her residence, Broadford House, Aberdeen Miss DUTHIE, of Ruthrieston.

LATEST NEWS.

Paris, April 2, 7.40 p.m.

The new Ministry is expected to be formed this evening for certain. It is believed that the Cabinet will be composed as follows:—

M. de Freycinet.....	President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs.
M. Sarrien	Minister of the Interior.
M. Spuller	Minister of Public Instruction.
M. Sadi-Carnot	Minister of Finance.
M. Legrand	Minister of Commerce.
M. Allain Targe ...	Minister of Agriculture.
M. Cuvinot	Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.
Admiral Krantz	Minister of Marine.
General Delebecque	Minister of War.

Nothing is yet known as to the recipients of the Portfolios of Public Works and Justice.

The *Paris* gives the history of the peace negotiations with China, which it appears were conducted in Paris by M. Robert Hart, Director of Chinese Custom-houses.

The *National* confirms the news, which is much talked about, and has produced no small amount of excitement, both in the lobbies and the Chamber, adding that M. Ferry received telegraphic information from China on Tuesday that the following conditions had been accepted at Pekin, namely:—

The full carrying out of the Treaty of Tientsin.

No war indemnity.

Further, the stipulations of the Franco-Chinese Treaty of Commerce.

General Thong Ki Tong, Chinese Military Attaché at Berlin, was to have arrived at Paris to-day to sign the treaty embodying these terms.

Admiral Courbet telegraphs to-day the occupation of the Pescadores Islands on the 30th and 31st ult. The French loss was small.

It is persistently affirmed here that one portion of General Négrier's column was thoroughly defeated. The *National* entreats the Minister for War to communicate full intelligence on this subject.

Although in diplomatic circles a firm belief is entertained that the Anglo-Russian difficulty will be arranged, Baron Rothschild has declared to an Ambassador that he considers a durable understanding impossible, and has fears of approaching hostilities.

Rawul Pindi, April 2.

The first sitting of the formal conference between the Ameer and the Viceroy was held to-day. The interview lasted three hours.

The weather is now fine, and the grand durbar in honour of the Ameer's visit is fixed for Monday next.

Madrid, April 2.

Rumours, of which it is impossible to obtain any confirmation owing to the reticence of the authorities, are in circulation that some persons have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in a plot to assassinate the King during the religious ceremonies incidental to Maundy Thursday. The customary ceremonies were suspended this afternoon owing, it is said, to the heavy rain.

Sofia, April 2.

Prince Alexander has signed a decree accepting the resignation of M. Soukaroff, Minister of the Interior, and entrusting the direction of the affairs of that department to M. Karaveloff, the Premier and Minister of Finance.

The municipal elections have resulted in the return of a large majority in favour of the Government.

Washington, April 2.

An informal meeting of the Cabinet was held last night, at which it was decided that there must be an open route between Panama and Colon, and that if necessary force should be used for this purpose.

Additional naval force has been ordered to Aspinwall.

New York, April 2, 6 p.m.

General Grant has rallied somewhat since the morning, but death may supervene at any moment. He is resting in his easy-chair, and is conscious.

Wiesbaden, April 2.

Franz Abt, the celebrated musical composer, died here this morning.

M. de Staal, the Russian Ambassador, immediately after the receipt of the answer of his Government to the latest proposals of Earl Granville regarding the Russo-Afghan frontier, made out a copy of the despatch and forwarded it to Earl Granville, into whose hands it was delivered on Thursday morning. Most of the members of the Cabinet were subsequently informed of the principal points in the reply, the substance of which is said to be of a conciliatory character.

The British force advanced on Thursday from Souakim towards Tamai, the weather being fairly cool. The reconnaissances made from the balloon showed the enemy to be in small numbers; they retired on the approach of the British column, and not a shot was fired during the march.

The Queen's Easter Bounties were on Thursday distributed in the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, over a thousand persons being recipients, one of whom was one hundred and one years of age.

The Queen has given orders for the construction of a suspension bridge across the Dee. The foundation-stone has just been laid, and the work will be completed before Her Majesty's visit in the summer. It will be a great convenience to the residents in the district, as it is the only means of communicating with the north side of the river from Balmoral to Ballater. Hitherto the Royal visitors have had to drive round by Balmoral, or cross the river in a cradle with a chain rope. The Queen has also given orders that a fence is to be erected between Abergeldie and Girnoc, a distance of five miles, to prevent the deer destroying the crops on Colonel Farquharson's estate on the opposite side of the river.

The Queen has approved the grant of Civil List pensions to Mrs. Stewart (£200 a year) and the two Misses Stewart (£100 a year each), in recognition of the services of the late Colonel Hamill Stewart (their son and brother) in connection with the defence of Khartoum.

DEATH OF EARL CAIRNS.

We regret to announce the death of Earl Cairns, which took place at his residence, Lindisfarne, Bournemouth, at ten minutes to seven o'clock on Thursday morning. The immediate cause of his death was congestion of the lungs. For several years past his health had been delicate, and shortly after last Christmas he had a severe illness, from which, however, he had apparently entirely recovered. Last week while driving out he was caught in a storm, and two days later he was confined to his bed with a severe chill. Danger was not apprehended till Tuesday night, and early on Wednesday morning Dr. Monkwell, his Lordship's medical attendant, summoned Dr. Kidd from London, and also telegraphed to the members of the family, who, with the exception of Lord Garmoyle, who is travelling abroad, were enabled to arrive in time to be with Earl Cairns when he breathed his last. The Right Hon. Hugh M'Calmont Cairns, Earl Cairns, Viscount Garmoyle, and Baron Cairns, of Garmoyle, county Antrim, in the peerage of the United Kingdom, was descended from a Scottish family long connected by mercantile and other ties with the North of Ireland. He was the second son of the late Mr. William Cairns, of Cultra, in the county of Down, and of Parkmount, in the county of Antrim, who formerly held a captain's commission in the 47th Foot. His mother was Rose Anna, daughter of Mr. Hugh Johnson. She was his father's first wife, and consequently Sir William Wellington Cairns, late Governor of South Australia, was his half-brother. The future Lord Chancellor was born in the month of December, 1819. He received his early education at one of the schools in his native city. Thence he passed to Trinity College, Dublin, where his career was particularly distinguished. He was a first in classics and obtained other honours, taking his bachelor's degree in 1838, and proceeding LL.B. and LL.D. in 1862. In 1852 Mr. Cairns first entered Parliament as one of the members for his native city of Belfast, and it was not long before he made his voice heard in the House. In 1856, while actively engaged in his profession, and whilst representing the city of Belfast, Mr. Cairns was made a Queen's Counsel, and elected a Bencher of Lincoln's-inn. He held the post of Solicitor-General in Lord Derby's Administration from March, 1858, till June, 1859, and received on that occasion the customary honour of knighthood. From June to November, 1866, Sir Hugh Cairns held the office of Attorney-General, and from the last-named date till March, 1868, he was Lord Justice of Appeal, a position in which he succeeded Sir J. Knight Bruce. He was raised to the peerage, as Baron Cairns, in 1867, and from March till December, 1868, he occupied the post of Lord Chancellor, an office which he again held from February, 1874, down to the retirement of the Conservative party in May, 1880.

Lord Cairns's health, in spite of his fine physique, was never very good, and it nearly broke down under the strain of the work imposed upon him as Solicitor-General in 1859; but he found himself speedily restored after a short interval of rest, and doubtless it was to strengthen his frame that he took up his residence permanently at Bournemouth. He married on the 9th of May, 1856, Mary Harriet, eldest daughter of the late Mr. John MacNeile, of Parkmount, in the county of Antrim, by whom he has left a family of four sons and two daughters—namely, Arthur William, Viscount Garmoyle, born in December, 1861, who now succeeds as second Earl; the Hon. Herbert John, born in July, 1863; the Hon. Wilfrid Dallas, born in November, 1865; the Hon. Douglas Haliburton, born in September, 1867; Lady Lilian Charlotte, wife of the Rev. Henry Neville Sherbrooke, incumbent of Portman Chapel, Baker-street, London; and Lady Kathleen Mary, unmarried.

Lord Cairns was a Governor of the Charterhouse, and Chancellor of the University of Dublin. The funeral will, it is expected, take place in the Bournemouth Cemetery on Wednesday next. A Belfast telegram says that very general regret was expressed there on the announcement of the death of Earl Cairns, who was a native of the district, and for many years represented Belfast in the House of Commons.

The two young Joyces, the survivors of the Maamstrasna massacre, will be presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales at the Art and Industrial Schools, Dublin, next week. The Queen has interested herself in the two lads, and has directed that on attaining the age of twenty-one they shall be provided with a farm in any part of the country they may select, the money for the purchase of the farms coming out of Her Majesty's own private purse.

The *City Press* says:—A statement of receipts and expenses for the banquet and procession on Lord Mayor's Day (November 10) shows that the total cost was £3,840, made up as follows: Messrs. Ring and Brymer, for dinner, wines, &c., £1,714; decorations, £436; procession, £1,029; music in Guildhall, £60; printing and stationery, £265; general expenses, £335. Towards the expense the Lord Mayor contributed £2,000; Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Whitehead, £1,000; Mr. Sheriff G. Faudel Phillips, £1,000; City Lands Committee, £200.

The Crown authorities hold an extensive estate on the Delamere Forest, Cheshire, a great proportion of which has been reclaimed and turned into large farms. One of these farms is just falling into hand from the inability of the present tenant to make it pay. The farm is surrounded by a considerable number of cottagers, and the Crown have sent an inspector from the Woods and Forests Office to Cheshire to see if an arrangement cannot be effected by which this farm may be cut up into small holdings of twenty or thirty acres.

We understand that the *Boy's Own Paper*, of the Religious Tract Society, whose readers have already subscribed over £1,200 for two lifeboats, besides £400 for a hospital cot, is promoting a Boys' Gordon Memorial on the lines known to be dear to Gordon himself—viz., to help the poorer working and suffering lads.

A Classified Collection of English Proverbs, with their equivalents in nine European languages, by Mrs. Mawr, of Bucharest, is in the press, and will be published shortly by Mr. Elliot Stock.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Gladys Countess of Lonsdale and Earl de Grey, eldest son of the Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon.

Also between Colonel Alan Gardner and Miss Blyth, eldest daughter of Mr. James Blyth, of Woodhouse, Stanstead, and Portland-place.

Also between Miss Gertrude Dormer, daughter of the Hon. Hubert Dormer, and Mr. Granville Ward, of Northwood-park, Isle of Wight.

Also between Miss Laurance, daughter of Mr. Francis C. Laurance, of New York, and Lord Vernon.

The marriage of Mr. Edmond Nugent, son of Mr. Thomas Nugent, of Merrion-square, Dublin, with Miss Grace Conant, youngest daughter of Mr. Conant, of Lyndon Hall, Rutland, took place in Lyndon Church on the 25th ult. A covered way, carpeted with crimson cloth, was erected from the house to the church. The church was beautifully decorated with lilies-of-the-valley and other fragrant white flowers. The house party assembled at the hall for the occasion comprised Lord and Lady Rathdonnell and the Hon. Isabella M'Clintock Bunbury, Mr. Stronge, Mr. and Mrs. Wingfield-Verner and Miss Sybil Verner, Mr. T. Vesey Nugent, Miss Aline Selby, Mr. and Mrs. Fowke, Mr. and Mrs. Byam Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vandeleur, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Denman, Miss Proby, Mr. E. H. Conant, Miss E. Vandeleur, and Miss M. Davies; and among other friends who attended the wedding were Lady Aveland and Hon. Evelyn Willoughby, Lady Augusta Noel, the Hon. W. Evans-Freke, the Hon. and Rev. A. Stuart and Miss Stuart, Hon. Norman and Mrs. Leslie Melville, Colonel and Mrs. Blackett, Mr. G. H. Finch, Mrs. and the Misses Finch, Mrs. Richard Tryon, Mrs. Arthur Fludyer, Mr. G. Fydell-Rowley, Mrs. Bromley, &c. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Stronge as best man, and there were six bridesmaids. The bride, who was conducted to the altar by her father, who afterwards gave her away, wore a dress of white Indian muslin over white satin, made with a full bodice and waistband; on one side of the skirt was a handsome fall of Mauresque lace, and the other was gracefully caught with wreaths of natural lilies of the valley; she wore a wreath of the same flowers and a tulle veil, secured to the hair by a diamond spray, the gift of her father. The bridesmaids were prettily dressed in white Indian muslin over primrose coloured satin, the full bodices being confined at the waist with sashes of primrose satin merveilleux; they had hats to match, and bronze shoes, and each wore a gold and pearl monogram brooch, and carried a primrose posy, gifts from the bridegroom. The Rev. Philip G. Dennis, rector of North Luffenham, Stamford, officiated, assisted by the Rev. J. Cooke. Mr. Conant afterwards entertained upwards of eight relatives and friends of both families at breakfast at Lyndon Hall. In the afternoon the newly-wedded couple started for Ireland, where they purpose spending a few weeks before proceeding to Italy on their wedding tour. The bride wore a tailor-made brown cloth travelling costume, with blue waistcoat, and brown bonnet with blue feather.

On the 24th ult., at the parish church of Robeston, Pembrokeshire, Mr. Richard Poyer Lewis Penn, of Camrose House, the eldest son of the late Colonel Penn, was married to Miss Edith Mary Allen, the only daughter of Mr. Charles Hugh Allen, of Robeston Hall, the well-known former master of the North Pembrokeshire hounds. The vicar, the Rev. Kaye Robinson, officiated. The marriage was a strictly private one, the guests being confined to the immediate relatives. The bride was tastefully attired in a travelling costume. The bride and bridegroom soon after left for London *en route* for Paris. The presents were many, and among them a handsome salver, presented to Mr. Penn by a deputation of tenantry of the Camrose and Begelly Estates, with an appropriate address.

Lady Wimborne gave her second party at Hamilton House last Saturday. Among the company were his Excellency the Netherlands Minister and Mdme. de Bylandt, Count and Countesse de Florian, Maria Marchioness of Ailesbury, Dowager Marchioness of Waterford, Countess of Roden, Countess of Airlie and Lady G. Ogilvy, Countess of Lathom and Ladies Wibraham, Julia Countess of Jersey, Countess of Denbigh and Lady E. Fielding, Countess of Antrim, Earl of Arran and Ladies Gore, Earl and Countess of Beauchamp, Lady Henry Somerset and Miss Gurney, Lady Charles Beresford, Lady Randolph Churchill, Viscount Barrington, Lady Francis and Miss Gordon, Lord Strathnairn, Lord Wm. Nevill, Lady Dorchester, Hon. H. and Lady Feodore Sturt, Hon. Lady and Miss Cotterell, Hon. Colonel Edgcumbe, Lord Greville and Hon. Miss Greville, Lady Ulrica and Miss Thynne, Hon. General Foley, Hon. Lady Ducane and Miss Ducane, Colonel the Hon. C. Eliot, Mrs. and Miss Eliot, the Hon. C. Hanbury Lennox, Hon. C. Ashley, Colonel and Hon. Mrs. Armytage and Miss Armytage, Hon. Mrs. Yorke, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Hallyburton Campbell, Hon. Miss Henniker, Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck and Miss Bentinck, Sir Seymour Blane, Lady and Miss Drummond Wolfe, General Hankey, Mr. Arthur Guest, Mrs. Bischoffsheim, Mr. and Mrs. G. Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Hambro, &c. Lady Wimborne wore a dress of rich grey broché velvet, coral and diamond ornaments, and coral twisted in the hair; the Dowager Marchioness of Waterford, in black; Lady Henry Somerset, pale grey velours frisé over petticoat of satin, trimmed white lace, and handsome diamond ornaments; Lady Charles Beresford, terra-cotta broché satin; Lady Sarah Churchill, dress of white mousseline de soie and lace, with paniers and trimmings of Pompadour satin; Lady Fanny Marjoribanks, black velvet train and bodice, front of broad white satin and black velvet striped; Countess of Roden, pearl-coloured satin; Countess of Lathom, white and gold brocade; Lady Dorchester, yellow and black lace; Hon. Lady Cotterell, crimson and black lace; Miss Cotterell, white; Hon. Lady Ducane, black lace dress; Mrs. Bischoffsheim, rich white brocade.

The Opera Comique Theatre, which has been entirely redecorated during the recess, will be reopened this (Saturday) evening by Mr. David James, who has acquired a lease of the house, with *The Excursion Train*.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 5.

(First Month, Tenth Year.)

1. A lla R
2. M ic E
3. E ndo R
4. E tn A
5. R abbi T

Answers have been received from G.C.H., Conjecture, S.O.F., Zyx, Cove Lupum, Pegasus, Pansy, Todcat, Paddy, Iris, Sarnia, Viz, Sociable, Peewit, Roma, Felix, Persevere, Hampton Courtier, M.A.E.B., Ketha, Land o' Nod, Etak, Kildare, Mac, Beam, Evelina, The Owl, and Zulus.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 1.

(Second Month, Tenth Year.)

Prorem.

No Royal pomp or high display
Marks where a mighty ruler holds his sway.

1.

The Bible makes me substantive—elsewhere I'm preposition.

2.

He swore he'd never tell he saw the apparition.

3.

Good company we've here—don't spoil it by addition.

4.

The sandpits changed their name, and altered their condition.

5.

Oh! let us have it all—'tis ruined by partition.

MARS.

At the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Society on Wednesday, March 25, several important questions on the working of the Education Acts were considered, and the following grants were voted:—For building and enlarging schools, £725; repairs and improvements, £46; fittings, £6; books, £8; Sunday schools, £16; diocesan inspection, £125. Total, £925.

The church of St. Saviour's, Bath, has been enriched by the filling of the great east window with painted glass, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street. The window is of seven lights, and represents six subjects in the life of our Saviour, being the gift of Mrs. Beaumont, in memory of her husband.

The reinstallation of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of English Freemasons will be held in the Temple on Wednesday, the 29th of April, at five in the afternoon. On that day, for the first time, the hall which was destroyed by fire a week after a similar ceremony two years ago will be opened completely restored. The occasion will be celebrated with something more than the usual formalities. The elections for the girls' and boys' schools are fixed for the 11th and 13th of April, and there are thirty candidates for the girls and forty-four for the boys. The 97th anniversary festival of the Girls' Institution will be held at Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the 13th of May, when Sir Walter W. Burrell, M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Sussex, will preside.

Attention has lately been called to the neglected state of the York House Watergate, an interesting monument of the skill of Inigo Jones and of architecture in the period of James I., which is now to be found at the lower end of Buckingham-street, Strand, half buried in a deep hole, or rather trench, between the precipice in which the street terminates and the new gardens on the Thames Embankment, but stood originally on the bank of the Thames, and formed the imposing entrance to York House, which, having been in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth the town inn or residence, first of the Bishop of Norwich, and then of the Archbishop of York, was granted by James I. to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, who rebuilt it in the magnificent manner represented in a contemporary drawing by Hollar, which is among the treasures of the Pepysian library at Cambridge. The great interest attached to the gate is not so much for its architecture as for its situation. Of all the buildings represented in Hollar's drawing, made about the middle of the seventeenth century, nothing remains except this gateway. It then stood proudly on the river's bank; now the river has been driven away by the Thames Embankment to a distance of about 130 yards, and the gateway is as completely buried as the Arch of Severus in the Forum of Rome, and its very existence is still further threatened by the proposed railway from Euston to Charing-cross. The palace of the Duke of Buckingham had but a short life; it was pulled down after the Restoration, and the site laid out in several streets which still retain the position and the names which were then given to them. George-court, Villiers-street, Duke-street, and Buckingham-street preserve the name and title of "Steenie" and his son, and so so careful were they to commemorate the whole title that the alley which led from Villiers-street to George-court, parallel to the Strand, was named Ofalley, and retained that name until the end of the last century, but is now York-place.

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